

Opening Bids

**1 NT:** 15 - 17, balanced (no voids, singletons, 2 doubletons (excluding length)).  
**2 NT:** 20 - 22, balanced can have 2 doubletons  
5+ length, 12+: open strongest suit.  
**Major suite** 5+ length, 12-21: Open strongest (1♠, 1♥)  
**Minor suite** 4♦, 4♣, 12-21: open 1♦  
**Minor suite** 3♦, 3♣: 12-21: open 1♣  
**Artificial bid 2♣:** 23+ points. **Partner must respond!**  
**Weak 2 bids** 2♦, 2♥, 2♠: 6 card suit, 5 - 9 with 2 honours.  
**Pre-emptive bid** 3♦, 3♥, 3♠: 7 card suit, 5 - 9 with 2 honours  
**Pre-emptive bid** 4♦, 4♥, 4♠: 8 card suit, 5 - 9 with 2 honours

Competing Bids

Raising the bid set by the opponent  
**Overcall Suite:** Requires 5 card suite, 2 honours, 9+ at 1 level, 10+ at 2 level  
**Overcall 1 NT** same as opening **1NT** (15-17, balanced hand) but with **stopper** (A+1, K+2 etc.)  
**Take out Double D:** (Red “D” bidding card) needs :  
• 12+points, shortage in their suit (2 or less cards)  
• **Support for other 3 suits** (4+ cards) OR **support for 2 suits and tolerance** (3 cards) in 3<sup>rd</sup> suit.  
• Tells partner to **bid their longest suit** to ensure a fit. Partner **must respond**.

Opening Leads (Suits)

Top of a sequence (any 2 touching cards down to 10) **A**Kxx **K**Qxx **Q**Jxx **T**98  
Top of interior sequence (10 must be present) **K**JTx **Q**T9x  
Low from an honour (never below 4<sup>th</sup> highest) **K**82 **Q**964 **J**8632 **T**754 **Q**96543 **K**876 (No Ten - not a seq.)  
Top of a doubleton **8**6 **7**2 **9**4  
MUD (Middle Up Down) from 3 cards. Follow up with higher then lower card. **8**63 play **6**, **8** then **3**  
4<sup>th</sup> highest from 4 small cards **9**732 **8**754  
**Never lead a suite with an unsupported Ace** (Ace without King). Avoid the suite completely.

Opening Leads (NT)

Most common: **4<sup>th</sup> highest of longest and strongest**.  
Same as Suite Contracts except that the sequence needs 3 touching cards **K**QJxx  
If there aren’t 3 in a row lead **4<sup>th</sup> highest**.  
Unsupported Ace: **Can lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest** but **never the Ace**. (Underleading an Ace)

Responding Bids

Length is **included** (Notes say otherwise)  
A fit is **8 combined cards** of a suite (you and partner).  
Respond with 5+ points otherwise pass.  
Single raise (1 -> 2) : 5-9 pts and a fit.  
Jump raise (1 -> 3) : 10-11 points and a fit.  
Direct raise (1 -> 4) : 12+ points and a fit.  
Change suite at level 1 (e.g. 1♣ to 1♦) requires 4 cards and 5 points.  
Change suite at level 2 (e.g. 1♠ to 2♦) requires 4 cards and 10+ points.  
**Responding with 1NT**  
• When **cannot support partner & have no 4+ card suit at 1 level**. A very common bid (showing 5-9 pts)  
**Responding to 1NT:** 8 points: pass, 9 points: **2NT**, 10+ points: **3NT**  
**Responding to 2NT:** 4+ points bid **3NT** (66% chance of making game), otherwise pass  
Adjust Doubleton +1, Singleton +2, Void +3 (**Don’t include length** when adjusting)  
**Take out Double D: Must respond** with longest suit (no matter how weak the hand)  
**Responding to 2♣ Club Opening**  
• **0-6 pts or 7+ pts with no 5+ card suite** bid 2♦ *negative response*  
• **7+ pts, 5 card suite** bid best (long) suite (2♠, 2♥, 2♣, 3♦) *positive response*  
• Note that **3♦ not 2♦** is used to represent a *positive ♦ response*.

NB. Partner cannot pass after an initial change of suite and **must respond again**.

Bids					Goal	Pts
1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠	1NT		
2♣	2♦	2♥	2♠	2NT		
3♣	3♦	3♥	3♠	3NT	Game	25
4♣	4♦	4♥	4♠	4NT	Game	25
5♣	5♦	5♥	5♠	5NT	Game	27
6♣	6♦	6♥	6♠	6NT	Small Slam	33+
7♣	7♦	7♥	7♠	7NT	Grand Slam	37+

Card Play

**3<sup>rd</sup> hand:** play highest card. *3<sup>rd</sup> hand high*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> hand:** do not play high card immediately. *2<sup>nd</sup> hand low*

**Download** (Note that Russell has 2 L’s)  
• PDF <https://tinyurl.com/RussellsBridgePDF>  
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*Last updated: 25 June 2019 11:45pm*