

Opener reverses

Lets say you have this hand:

xx	
AQxx	1C – 1S
xxx	?
AQxxx	

The auction continues 1C – 1S
 2H – 3C or 2NT

The auction ends and you find out your partner has this hand:

Jxxx
Kxx
Qxx
Xxx

Do you think you are going to make 3C or 2NT?

What is a reverse?

A reverse is a non-jump rebid by opener at the two level in a suit higher ranking than the first bid suit

For example, these rebids by opener are reverses:

1C – 1H
2D

1C – 1S
2H

1D – 1NT
2H

1H – 1NT
2S

You can recognise a reverse opener's rebid is beyond opener's 'barrier' of two of their first bid suit. So, if the suit opened was 1C, opener's barrier is 2C, if it was 2D the barriers is 2D and so on.

*Can also look at it from responder's perspective. If responder wants to show a preference for opener's first bid suit, they have to bid it at the three level. For example, 1C – 1S
2H requires responder to bid 3C if they prefer clubs to hearts.*

These rebids are NOT reverses:

1D – 1S
2C

1C – 1H – 1S

What does a reverse show?

A reverse shows:

- an *unbalanced* hand with at least 16 HCP
- that opener's first bid suit is longer than opener's second bid suit (for example 5-4, 6-5, 6-4 shape).

Can't be 5/5 or 6/6 shape as opener would have bid the higher suit first and therefore can still rebid second suit without reversing

A reverse is forcing for one round.

A reverse after a 2-level response

When responder's first bid is at the 1-level showing 10 HCP, some people play that you no longer need as much as 16 HCP to reverse but standard methods are that you still need extra strength.

If you play 2/1 then you are already in a game force auction so a reverse does not show extra strength.

Why should you play reverses?

Take this auction:

1C – 1S
2H – 3C

Here responder may only have 6 HCP but is forced to bid at the three level in order to take opener back to their first bid suit. If you don't play reverses, opener may only have a minimum opening hand of 12 HCP, and you are now too high.

This problem is solved by playing reverses.

Reverses:

- allow opener to show a two suited hand
- allow opener to show extra strength
- stops you and your partner getting too high on weak hands.

Responders rebid after a reverse

After partner reverses, responder **MUST** bid again.

Responder can:

- rebid a 5-card or longer suit
- raise opener's second suit
- give preference to opener's first bid suit
- bid 2NT

These responses are **NOT** forcing and show about 6-7 HCP.

With a stronger responding hand, responder can:

- Jump rebid a long suit
- Jump in opener's second suit
- Jump in opener's first suit
- Bid the 4th suit to get further information.

For example,

1D – 1S	Jxxx
2H	Kxx
	Qxx
	Xxx

With a weak hand you would bid 3D knowing opener has at least 5D and 4H.

But with this hand you know you have enough for game and would bid 3NT:

QJxx
Xxx
Jx
KQxx

