

# Overcalls I

When your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one of a suit and you have a five-card suit, you may have an overcall. Hands with 6+cards in a suit will be covered in a subsequent lesson. Guidelines:

<b>1-level Overcall: 5-card suit<sup>1</sup></b>	7-17 playing points. If your hand is in the minimum range of 7-9, most of your points need to be concentrated in the overcalled suit, such as AJTxx, KQJxx, or AKTxx.
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<b>2-level Overcall<sup>2</sup>: 5-card suit</b>	12-17 playing points. A 2-level overcall suggests a good 5-card suit or a good hand with a 5+card suit.
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With a weaker suit or a hand which doesn't qualify for a Take-Out Double, you typically await further developments before entering the auction.

## Advances (Bids by Overcaller's Partner):

As Advancer, you are not required to bid when Partner makes a suit overcall. Without support, pass with 0-5 points even if short in Partner's suit.

## Supporting Overcaller's Suit:

The most desirable response is to raise Partner's suit, especially a major, which requires a minimum of 3+ trumps. Evaluate your hand using support points.

	Cards	Points	Advance	Forcing?
Major Suit Advance	0-2	0-5	Pass	N/A
	3-4	6-9	Raise to 2-level	No
	3+	10+	Cue-bid	1-round
	4	2-5	Jump to 3-Level	No
	5+	0-9	Bid Game <sup>2</sup>	N/A

	Cards	Points	Advance	Forcing?
Minor Suit Advance	0-2	0-5	Pass	N/A
	3-4	6-9	Raise to 3-Level	No
	3+	10+	Cue-bid	1-round
	5	0-5	Raise to 4-Level	No
	6+	0-9	Bid Game <sup>2</sup>	N/A

<sup>1</sup> With two 5-card suits, there are bids which describe these hands in one call.

<sup>2</sup> Vulnerability will affect your choice of overcall/advance. Be conservative if Unfavorable Vulnerability with a balanced hand.

# Quiz 9

Throughout this quiz, your side is **Not Vulnerable**. In this part, your right-hand opponent opens the bidding 1♦. Fill in your call.

	Your Bid	Your Hand		Your Bid	Your Hand
1a.	1♦ – _____	♠ AQ4 ♥ A9763 ♦ 7532 ♣ 7	2a.	1♦ – _____	♠ 6 ♥ A94 ♦ T984 ♣ KJ952
3a.	1♦ – _____	♠ 83 ♥ AQJ98 ♦ T3 ♣ 8742	4a.	1♦ – _____	♠ Q8 ♥ AK9 ♦ J85 ♣ KJT94
5a.	1♦ – _____	♠ AJ752 ♥ Q ♦ J653 ♣ J64	6a.	1♦ – _____	♠ 64 ♥ J8652 ♦ AQ ♣ AKJ7

Your left-hand Opponents open with 1♥, Partner makes an overcall, and your right-hand Opponent Passes. As Advancer, what is your call?

	Your Bid	Your Hand		Your Bid	Your Hand
1a.	(1♥) – 1♠ – P – _____	♠ 8 ♥ Q9862 ♦ QT3 ♣ JT84	2a.	(1♥) – 1♠ – P – _____	♠ 987 ♥ J9 ♦ A84 ♣ QJT52
3a.	(1♥) – 2♣ – P – _____	♠ KT9 ♥ T943 ♦ T6 ♣ KJ32	4a.	(1♥) – 2♦ – P – _____	♠ 865 ♥ 954 ♦ J8743 ♣ K4
5a.	(1♥) – 1♠ – P – _____	♠ AJ754 ♥ 7 ♦ J652 ♣ 643	6a.	(1♥) – 1♠ – P – _____	♠ K64 ♥ J4 ♦ T943 ♣ 9876