

It's A Reverse?

What do I do now?

The Changing Rule In 2/1

The Difference Between 2/1 and S.A.

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♠	pass		

- In Standard American, this is a reverse and shows extra values.
- In 2/1 this is not played as a reverse and does not necessarily show extra values.

Rules for Reversing in 2/1

- You open the bidding with 1 of a suit. Partner responds at the 1 level.
- You have an unbalanced hand, making no trump unattractive.
- You cannot support partner's suit.
- You have a second suit of higher rank than your opening suit. (shorter than your first suit)
- Your hand has 17+ points.

Can You Reverse With this Hand? Ex. 1

♠ 4
♥ A J 9 7
♦ 10 5
♣ A K 8 7 4 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
??			

No. Not strong
enough. Bid 2 ♣.

Can You Reverse With this Hand? Ex. 2

♠ J 4

♥ K Q 9 6

♦ A K 8 7 4

♣ 4 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1 ♠	pass
??			

No. Hand is too weak. Best bid 2 ♦. Some might try 1 nt.

Can You Reverse With this Hand? Ex. 3

♠ 4
♥ A J 9 6
♦ A K Q 8 7
♣ J 4 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1 ♠	pass
??			

Yes. Meets all the requirements. Bid 2 ♥.

Can You Reverse With this Hand? Ex. 4

♠ A J 4

♥ A K 9 6

♦ A J 10 8 7

♣ 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1 ♠	pass
??			

Yes, good enough for a reverse, but don't forget to show spade support after partner bids. Bid 2 ♥.

Can You Reverse With this Hand? Ex. 5

♠ 5 4	North	East	South	West
♥ A K 9 6	1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
♦ 7	??			
♣ A K J 10 8 3				

- Yes. If you simply count points (15), the hand is not strong enough for a reverse.
- Stacked points and 6-4 distribution make it worth a reverse. Bid 2 ♥.

Can You Reverse With this Hand? Ex. 6

♠ 10 9
♥ A J 10 6
♦ 7 4 2
♣ A K J 7

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
??			

- No, not strong enough.
- Don't even think of bidding 2 ♥.
- 1 nt is the right bid.

Responding to a Reverse

- A reverse is forcing on the responder for one round of bidding.
 - When openers reverse, they have a strong hand (17+ points).
 - So if you have 8 or more, your side is in the game range.
 - Partner might bid game even if you make a weak response.

Weak Response – Strong Response

- Different bridge experts teach different guidelines. Here are the ones I like to use.
- These guidelines have changed just a little from the last time I talked about reverses, because I have been reading more on the topic.
- Weak responses: 6 to a bad 8 points.
- Strong responses: a good 8 or more points.

Weak Response – Bid 2 nt. Ex. 7

♠ K10 6 3
♥ K 9 6
♦ 7 4 2
♣ 7 5 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
2 ♦	pass	??	

- Bid 2 nt. Considered the weakest bid you can make.
- Usually shows a stopper in the unbid suit, but not always.

Weak Response – Bid 2 nt. Ex. 8

♠ Q 7 6 3 2
♥ 9 6 3
♦ A 2
♣ 7 5 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
2 ♦	pass	??	

- Bid 2 nt. Considered the weakest bid you can make
- Not the ideal bid, but might be best with this hand.

Weak Response – Support Partner’s First Suit. Ex. 9

♠ K 7 6 4 3
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K 7 5 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
2 ♥	pass	??	

- Bid 3 ♣. Weak bid.
- Not forcing, but partner might go on.
- Preferable to bidding no trump with a singleton in the unbid suit.

Weak Response – Rebid Your Own Suit.

Ex. 10

♠ A K 6 4 3
♥ 9 6 3
♦ 7 2
♣ 7 5 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
2 ♥	pass	??	

- Bid 2♠. Weak bid.
- Not forcing,
- You can rebid a strong 5-card suit.
- But this is a weak bid and encourages partner to pass with a doubleton.
- Take a club out and make it a sixth spade and 2♠ would be automatic.

Strong Response – Bid 3nt Ex. 11

♠ A 6 4 3
♥ 9 6 3
♦ A 9 2
♣ Q 5 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
2 ♥	pass	??	

- Bid 3 nt. Good 8 or 9+ points
- Shows a stopper in the unbid suit.

Strong Response – Jump-Bid Partner's Second Suit Ex. 12

♠ A 10 6 4 3
♥ K J 9 3
♦ 2
♣ Q 5 3

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
2 ♥	pass	??	

- Bid 4 ♥. With 10 points your side is clearly in the game range.
- Even if you had just 8 or 9, 3♥ would be invitational.

Strong Response – Jump-Bid Partner’s First Suit Ex. 13

♠ K 10 6 4 3

♥

♦ A 4 2

♣ K Q 8 5 2

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	pass	1 ♠	pass
2 ♥	pass	??	

- Bid 4 ♣ You must be careful that you don't pass a makeable 3nt.
- With this distribution, a club game looks best.

Strong Response – Raise Partner's First-Bid Suit Ex. 14

♠ K 10 8
♥ K 10 5
♦ 4 3 2
♣ K J 8 5

North	East	South	West
1 ♥	pass	1nt	pass
2 ♠	pass	??	

- Bid 3 ♥ When Partner's first-bid suit is a major and you raise that suit after a reverse, it is game forcing.
- Opener has 5 cards, so you can raise with 3-card support.

Strong Response – Bid the Unbid Suit

Ex. 15

♠ J 10 9 4
♥ Q 10 5
♦ Q 3
♣ A J 10 4

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	pass	1 ♠	pass
2 ♥	pass	??	

- Bid 3 ♣ Bidding the 4th suit shows a stopper and is game forcing.

After a Reverse

- Summary of responses:
- Weak responses
 - Rebid 2nt.
 - Support partner's first suit. (especially when it is a minor)
 - Rebid your own suit.
- Strong responses
 - Rebid 3nt.
 - Jump raise partner second suit.
 - Jump raise partner's first suit.
 - Single raise partner's first suit when it is a major suit.
 - Bid the 4th suit.