

REVERSES

By Baloney Bill, Board President Queen Victoria's Subservient Servant, August 2025

So, we practiced a few hands last time related to opener's rebid after partner's response to her one club opening bid. Some of opener's rebids were reverses. HUH????? OK, let's take the H out of HUH and add some exclamation marks (UH!!!!!!!!!!!!). Or better yet: AH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If opener opens one club, and you bid one heart, then opener bids 2 diamonds, that two-diamond bid is a reverse. Opener's hand might look like this (spades first...):

A Q K 4 K J 8 7 K J 4 3 2

- Well, first of all, opener's hand is unbalanced; the two doubletons prove it.
- Secondly, opener's first bid suit is longer than the second (always in the case of a reverse); *with equal suit lengths*, opener should always bid the higher-ranking suit first, regardless of her point count.
- Opener's reverse describes not only an unbalanced hand, but also a hand with extra values, usually 16–17 pts.
- A reverse always takes place the TWO-LEVEL (**but it is not a jump bid**; for example, 1C – 1D – 2H, which would be a "jump shift", requiring 18-19 pts and forcing to game).
- The term "reverse" describes a special relationship of the second bid to the first, AND it is forcing for one round, not to game.

A couple more examples:

#1

- Opener's hand: A Q K J 8 7 K 4 K J 4 3 2
- Partner's hand: K J 6 4 2 Q 10 5 Q J 2 Q 7
- Opener bids _____. Partner responds _____. Opener's second bid? _____
- Is opener "reversing?" Please check the following response: Yes ____

#2

- Opener's hand: A Q 10 2 K 7 Q 9 K Q 10 6 2
- Partner's hand: J 6 4 A J 9 7 4 10 5 9 8 7
- Opener bids _____. Partner responds _____. Opener's second bid? _____
- So.... Opener's second bid is in a higher suit that is shorter than her first-bid suit. Correct? _____ Therefore, has opener "reversed?" _____ Why or why not?

WHEW!! Had enough? Yep, me too. Let's practice some hands.