

Supporting Partner I (Major Opening)

When your Partner opens the bidding with one of a major, showing 5+cards, and you have 3+cards support, you generally want to show the fit immediately. However, there are important exceptions, which will be covered in subsequent lessons.

Supporting Opener's Major:

Evaluate your hand using dummy support points as defined in the Hand Evaluation lesson after a fit is found. The chart below assumes you are an unpassed hand and there is no interference.

Major Suit Response With Support

Cards	Points	Response	Forcing?
3+	6-9	Simple Raise	No
3	10-12	Bid another suit then jump raise on next round	1-round
4+	10-12	Jump to 3-Level (Limit Raise)	No
4+	13-15 ¹	Bid another suit then bid game on next round	N/A

How does interference change your response? Assume in the chart below that an opponent's overcall (not a TOX or cuebid) has been made after your Partner opened with a major, e.g. 1♥ - 2♣, and you don't have 5+cards in the other major:

Major Suit Response After Interference

Cards	Points	Response	Forcing?
3+	6-9	Simple Raise to 2-level	No
3	10-12	Holding an outside, very good 5+card suit plus 3-card support, show your suit first, then rebid Partner's opening suit	1-round
3+	10-12	Cuebid opponent's suit	1-round
3+	13-15	Cuebid opponent's suit, then raise to game on next round	1-round
4	3-5	Jump to 3-Level	No
5+	2-5	Jump to Game	No

¹ In a later lesson, the Jacoby 2NT convention will be introduced to cover this situation.

Quiz 31: Supporting Partner's Major

Your Partner opens; opponent's call is shown in (...); enter your bid.

	Bids & Responses	Your Hand		Bids & Responses	Your Hand
1a.	1♥ – (2♣) – _____	♠ 752 ♥ QT9 ♦ A863 ♣ J62	2a.	1♥ – (2♣) – _____	♠ 87 ♥ QT94 ♦ J8432 ♣ 32
3a.	1♥ – (2♣) – _____	♠ 2 ♥ QT943 ♦ J8432 ♣ 32	4a.	1♥ – (2♣) – _____	♠ K52 ♥ KT94 ♦ JT62 ♣ A8
5a.	1♥ – (2♠) – _____	♠ 752 ♥ QT9 ♦ A863 ♣ J62	6a.	1♥ – (2♠) – _____	♠ Q52 ♥ KT94 ♦ JT62 ♣ A8

	Bids & Responses	Your Hand		Bids & Responses	Your Hand
1b.	1♥ – (Pass) – _____	♠ 752 ♥ QT9 ♦ A863 ♣ J62	2b.	1♥ – (Pass) – _____	♠ 87 ♥ QT94 ♦ J8432 ♣ 32
3b.	1♥ – (Pass) – _____	♠ 2 ♥ QT943 ♦ J8432 ♣ 32	4b.	1♥ – (Pass) – _____	♠ K52 ♥ KT94 ♦ JT62 ♣ A8
5b.	1♥ – (Pass) – _____	♠ AJ75 ♥ QT9 ♦ A863 ♣ J6	6b.	1♥ – (Pass) – _____	♠ KQT52 ♥ T93 ♦ KT6 ♣ A8