

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0355:
"As a Bridge Player Do You Know
(1) When as Opener to Bid a 'Reverse',
(2) When as Opener to Bid a 'Jump-Shift',
and (3) When to Do Something Else?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz.html>

If you and Partner play in **3** competitions per week, and you play **24** Boards in each competition, then you will be playing $3 \times 24 \times 52 = \mathbf{3,744}$ Boards each year. Here are (1) the probabilities for holding **16+** through **20+** HCPs and (2) how many times each year you will hold Hands with these point counts:

HCPs	Hands Per Year
16+	241.5
17+	153.2
18+	92.8
19+	54.3
20+	30.0

So, Hands with these point counts are rare but they do indeed happen. And when they happen it may be *important* to know how to handle the situation.

Of course, as a bridge Opener there are various ways to "show" Partner that you hold a "big" Hand. These include your making an opening bid of **1NT**, **2NT**, or **2C**. But there are also ways that you as Opener can "show" your "big" Hand by your *second* bid as Opener.

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¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

"Reverse" Bids by Opener at His Second Bid

One way that an Opener can "show" Partner a "big" Hand is by the Opener executing a "Reverse" bid at his 2nd turn within the auction. Esther discussed this in her "Esther Convention Lesson #30: The Art of the Reverse by the Bridge Opener and Responder's 'Lebensohl 2NT' Bidding Option":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/reverse.pdf>

Larry Cohen in his "Bridge with Larry Cohen" website posting, "Reverses",² notes that:

"Basically, a 'reverse' is when opener's rebid (2nd bid of the auction) meets both A & B:

- A) Opener's rebid is in a HIGHER ranking suit than his first suit
- B) Opener's rebid is at a HIGHER level than responder's response (*but never a jump!*)...

So, these are reverses:

1♣-1♥-2♦
1♣-1♠-2♦
1♣-1♠-2♥
1♣-1NT-2♦
1♣-1NT-2♥
1♣-1NT-2♠
1♦-1♠-2♥
1♦-1NT-2♥
1♦-1NT-2♠
1♥-1NT-2♠

In all auctions above, the last bid is made by the [O]pener, of course. Each bid is natural and promises extra values (approximately **17-20** points *counting useful distribution*). [You might "reverse" holding **16** HCPs if you held **6** rather **5** cards in your "long" Suit.] Reverses are *forcing [for] one round*--the responder can not [sic] pass. However, reverses are not forcing to game." (emphases and italics added)

"Jump-Shift" Bids by Opener His Second Bid

² See: <https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/reverses>

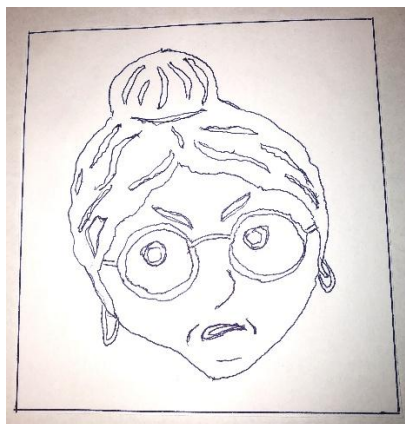
A "jump shift" by the Opener shows roughly **19 to 21 points**, including distributional points. A "jump shift" involves **BOTH (1) a Suit shift to a Suit higher in rank than the Opener's originally bid Suit, and (2) an unnecessary jump in contract level higher than necessary to make the bid "sufficient."** A "jump shift" by the Opener is "Game Forcing" and thus is the strongest claim of extraordinary power. The "jump shift" bid by Opener is discussed in more detail in "Esther Convention Lesson #15: Various Ways to Show Partner Your Extraordinary (More than Opening) High Card Point (HCP) Strength":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/jump.pdf>

Here are all the possible "jump shift" bids by Opener, **BH**, and responses by BH's Partner, **BT**:

- | BH | BT | BH |
|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 1. 1 C , | 1 D , | 2 H |
| 2. 1 C , | 1 D , | 2 S |
| 3. 1 C , | 1 H , | 2 S |
| 4. 1 D , | 1 H , | 2 S |
| 5. 1 D , | 1 S , | 3 C |
| 6. 1 D , | 1 NT , | 3 C |
| 7. 1 H , | 1 S | 3 C or 3 D |
| 8. 1 H , | 1 NT , | 3 C or 3 D |
| 9. 1 S , | 1 NT , | 3 C or 3 D or 3 H |

For example, if the bidding is **BH: 1C, BT: 1H, BH: 2S**, **BT** may have as few as **3 to 6 points**, so **BH** must have **19 to 21 points** to really think that a Game bid should be forced. Of course, if **BT** has fewer than **6 points**, **BT** may reject the force to Game by bidding **3H** or **3S**. Remember that DISTRIBUTION is a consideration in jump shift bids by the jump-shifter.



Esther says...

The present “Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quiz” is based on the excellent web article, “Reverses”, posted by Larry Cohen on his bridge lessons website:

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-quiz/bidding/reverses>

I, Esther, have altered some of the cards in these examples.

1. You hold:

♣ K 9 6 5 3 ♦ A Q 9 8 ♥ K 5 4 ♠ 3 (12)

Bidding

YOU LHO Partner RHO

1♣ PASS 1♥ PASS

???

What should you as Opener bid at your 2nd turn within the auction?

A. 1NT B. 2♣ C. 2♦ D. 2♥

To see Esther’s **suggested answers**, CLICK:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0355_a1.pdf