

Look at these sequences and decide what South should bid next.

N	S
1H-----	1NT
2S-----	?
	Axx
	Qxx
	Kxxx
	xxx

South spots partner's reverse and remembers that the bid shows 17+ pts and 5+ Hrts and 4 Spades. Armed with this information South knows to support Hrts and bids ...? Well it's not enough to bid only 3H as partner may pass and miss game. South must go the whole hog and raise to 4H.

N	S
1D-----	1S
2H-----	?
	Axxxx
	Qxxx
	Qx
	xx

Again South notes partner's reverse. South likes Hearts and intends to raise and the correct bid by South is 4H { and not 3 H }.

The point is that responder must add opener's known "reverse points" to their own and bid next at an appropriate level.

Sometimes there is no fit and responder must consider bidding NTs.

N	S
1D-----	1S
2H-----	?
	AJxx
	xxx
	xxx
	KJx

Well ? Opener has promised 17+ pts and S has 9 pts; 26 pts is enough to try game in NTs and S should bid not 2NT BUT 3NT.

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 Lastly - let us see how things look to opener after they have reversed but responder does *not* go to game .

N	S
1D-----	1S
2H-----	2NT
?	
Ax	
AQxx	
KQxxx	
Qx	

North should now pass 2NT. I'm betting that that will be a shock to you. The reason for the pass is that N has already told S that they {N} hold 17 pts ; if S *knowing that* , still only bids 2NT then they cannot be strong { can't have 8 pts } so 2NT is high enough.