RESPONDING TO PARTNER'S SUIT OVERCALL

LHO opened one of a suit and partner overcalled in a suit

If partner made a jump overcall it will be weak - maximum of nine points - usually six-card at the two-level or seven-card at the three-level.

If partner made a lowest-level overcall it will promise at least a good five-card suit - assume six-card at the two-level and particularly if vulnerable - and anything from a good suit in a weak hand up to about 18 points.

RAISE TO THE LEVEL OF THE FIT →

With support for partner's suit your first thought should be to raise rapidly to the 'Level of the Fit' -

that is - to the two-level with an eight-card fit, to the three-level with a nine-card fit - etc..

The aim is to disrupt - do this with anything from zero to nine points.

No Fit?

Bids in no trumps are natural - poor support for partner and cover in the opponents' suit.

1NT - eight to eleven points
2NT - twelve to fourteen points →
3NT - fifteen or more points.
(Note that these ranges are higher than when partner opens the bidding).

A bid in a new suit promises a good suit of at least five cards, and at least nine points. It is forcing for one round.
Usually you will have either more points, a longer suit, or at least two-card support for partner. →

♠ T 6 4 3 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ T 6 ♣ 9 7 5 4	LHO opened 1♦ and partner overcalled 2♥. You have a nine-card fit. Bid 3♥.

The Unassuming cue-bid

So how do you let partner know that you have a fit and ten or more points?

Answer - bid the opponents' suit. ↓

♠ Q T 4 3 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ T 6 ♣ A Q 5 4	LHO opened 1♦ and partner overcalled 1♥. You have at least an eight-card fit and eleven points. Bid 2♦ - forcing to 2♥. If partner has a weak overcall he will sign off in 2♥. If he has fifteen or so points he will bid game.
♠ A T 4 3 ♥ 8 ♦ K Q 7 4 ♣ Q 7 5 4	LHO opened 1♦ and partner overcalled 1♥. You have poor support, cover in diamonds, and eleven points. Bid 1NT.
♠ T 4 3 ♥ K 8 3 ♦ T 6 ♣ A Q J 5 4	LHO opened 1♦ and partner overcalled 1♥. You have a good five-card suit and ten points. Bid 2♣, forcing for one round. More often than not partner will sign off in 2♥.