# Raising partner's overcall - Summary Sheet

## Not the same as responding to partner's opener

Partner's bid might not be as good as an opening bid – it might be little more than a lead indicator or an attempt to 'get in the way'.
Your responses will therefore **not** be the same.

## Have you got a fit

Partner's suit overcall should normally have been made on at least a 5-card suit.
If you have 3 cards in his suit then you have a fit.

## Raising to the level of the fit

If partner's aim was to 'get in the way' then your first priority should be to 'get in the way a bit more'.
You do this by raising partner's suit to 'the level of the fit' - e.g. if you can see a 9-card fit then bid to make 9 tricks – the 3-level.
Four card support in your hand suggests a 9-card fit.

## Strength

You can raise to the 2-level with 3-card support on as few as **0 points**. You might go down, but they can score more so get in the way.

With better than 3-card support you should also raise to the appropriate level with as few as 0 points when not vulnerable.
But when vulnerable, and particularly when vulnerable against not, you might prefer a few points and bid 1 less otherwise.

## Bid up

If you are going to the 3-level (say) on a weak hand then do it immediately.
The object was to 'get in the way' and this is how you do it. If you go slowly they will have more space in which to find their best contract.

## Good hand

Of course, partner might hold a hand of opening strength. If you have a good hand then you must tell him.
In the present context 'a good hand' is one of 9/10 or more points.

## Good hand with support

With at least 3 cards in partner's suit and 10 or more points you show your 'good raise' by bidding the opponents' suit at the lowest level.

**This is the Unassuming Cue Bid.**

With a weak hand partner will put you back to the agreed suit.
You can always bid again with extra strength.

## Good hand – no support

With 9 or so points but no more than 2 cards in partner's suit you should try to show your strength.
A bid in a new suit would suggest at least 9 points, less than 3-card support, and a decent suit of 5 or more cards.
A bid in no trumps would suggest at least 9 points, less than 3-card support, and excellent stops in the opponents' suit.