

# Free Bid

Free Bids are not a convention but rather a partnership understanding. A Free Bid occurs when partner opens and opponent overcalls and responder bids a suit (the Free Bid) at the two-level or higher (non-jump). Remember, this is not the “Negative Free Bid” convention. The Free Bid, when made, requires no alert.

*Note: the “Negative Free Bid” convention is not used, although the “Negative Double” is used in conjunction.*

1. **A non-jump two-bid shows 10+ HCP and always a five-card suit (major or minor).**

It can be described by the "Rule of 10 and 5" ..... you must have 10 HCP and at least 5 cards in your suit to bid you suit at the two-level after opponent has overcalled.

- The purpose of the Free Bid is to show a five-card suit;
- and, Show at least a game-invite type of hand.
- Used in conjunction with the Negative Double. The Negative Double will usually promise the unbid suits, especially the unbid major(s). The Negative Double requires about 8+ HCP at the two-level and 10+ HCP at the three level, with no upper limit.

**If the bidding goes: [ 1D 1S and you hold:**

A5  
KJT53  
K42  
K83

Make a Free Bid of 2H.

A5  
KJT3  
K965  
K82

You have the values for a Free Bid but don't have the 5-card suit requirement. Make a Negative Double.

64  
KQ853  
Kt5  
842

You have the 5-card suit requirement but not the values for a Free Bid. Make a Negative Double.

Q87  
65  
AKJ98  
JT3

Make a Free Bid of 2D.

When you have a one-suited hand but can't make a Free Bid, you make a Negative Double then rebid your long suit. This warns partner that your Negative Double was an excuse to show your length and that you do not have values for a Free Bid, nor did you promise support in the major(s).

**The bidding goes: [ 1D 2C and you hold:**

KQT984  
K6  
73  
864

You don't have the values to make a 2S Free Bid. You make a Negative Double, partner assumes you have hearts and spades. If partner rebids 2H (expecting you to have hearts), or 2D, or 2NT -- you rebid the spade suit telling partner you have a one-suited hand in spades with 7 – 9 HCP and no heart suit as initially believed. Of course if partner rebids 2S you jump to 4S ("Fast Arrival").

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**Note: There are rare occurrences when *neither a Free Bid or a Negative Double can be made* when holding some values:**

**The bidding goes: [ 1C 1S and you hold:**

875  
65  
AKJ98  
JT9

Can't make a Free Bid (only 9 HCP). Can't make a Negative Double (no heart support; if partner rebid 2H, the diamond suit is not long enough to rebid 3D). This is one of those "tweeners" that should be passed. If partner reopens with a double, you now rebid 3D.