

Simple Cue Bid

A cue bid is a bid in the same suit bid as opponent. There are different kinds of cue bids.

As a reminder, this website (ATeacherFirst.com) is set up to teach beginners how to get started and play bridge relatively simply, with the least amount of rules. Once you advance in bridge, it is expected that you may change the rules slightly and add more complexity to your bids.

Here is what has been taught so far about showing support for partner's suit:

If Partner opens 1♥ or 1♠, and you have three cards or more in his suit, you can support your partner as follows:

- (1) With 6-9 pts, bid 2♥ or 2♠.
- (2) With 10-12 pts, bid 3♥ or 3♠.
- (3) With 12+ pts, bid 4♥ or 4♠.

This is a very simple way for beginners to bid and, in most cases, is quite accurate. However, experienced players rarely bid this way, except for (1) above. A jump in the same suit is considered a weak bid. It is a competitive means in which they hope to take the contract away from the opponents or at least make it very difficult for them to find their suit and bid higher. In many cases, players who jump in the same suit immediately are not vulnerable and may expect to go down, giving their opponents a few points, rather than letting their opponents bid to Game level and make it, thereby gaining 420 or 620 pts, depending on vulnerability.

With (2) above, here is a preferred way to show 10-12 points (or some use it to mean 10-11 pts). Judgement is required if you have 12 points.

Your partner opens 1♥ and your right-hand opponent bids 1♠. This does not mean that RHO has opening points. He may be making a simple overcall showing a 5-card spade suit. However, now you wish to show that you have 10-12 pts and 3- or 4-card heart support for partner. The way you can do that is to "cue bid" the opponent's suit (spades). Your bid is 2♠. Your partner should recognize this cue bid as meaning: you have 10-12 pts and 3- or 4-card support for partner's suit. It is up to partner to analyze his own hand to decide whether to bid 4 of the suit (game level) or pass, or perhaps initiate Blackwood to see if there are slam possibilities. By using this cue bid, you have given a very accurate picture of your hand to your partner. Of course, this cue bid is forcing. It does not mean that you have spades to compete with the opponent, so your partner cannot pass!

Here is an example of a hand that fits this

situation after Partner bid 1♥ and

opponent overcalled 1♠:

