

Part 5: May the Force Be With You

At this point, we know the type of hand that opener should have in order to reverse. We also know the criteria for a reverse and how to determine whether or not a bidding sequence is a reverse. Now it's time to learn what to do AFTER opener reverses. We will start by learning two facts:

1. **A reverse by opener is FORCING.** This is notable because new suits by opener are usually NOT forcing. A reverse isn't forcing to game, but it's definitely forcing for one round. Which means that responder must take another bid.
2. **Responder's bid after a reverse by opener is also FORCING, unless it's a game bid.** If responder bids game, then opener should Pass unless he has significantly more than he showed with the reverse. If responder bids less than game, then his bid is forcing, not necessarily to game but for at least one round.

Example: Opener bids 1D; responder bids 1S; opener bids 2H. The 2H bid is a reverse and is therefore FORCING. Let's look at some of responder's possible non-game bids. It may not seem like they should be forcing but they are, because they're not game bids. They're not necessarily forcing to game, but they're all forcing for at least one round.

Opener's 1 st Bid	Responder's 1 st Bid	Opener's 2 nd Bid	Responder's 2 nd Bid
1D	1S	2H	?

- A. 2S: Sounds like it's to play but it's forcing
- B. 2N: Sounds invitational but it's forcing
- C. 3C: Sounds forcing (new suit by responder) – and it is!
- D. 3D: Sounds like responder is just taking a preference but it's forcing
- E. 3H: Sounds invitational but it's forcing
- F. 3S: Sounds invitational but it's forcing