

Checkback Stayman looks for a major fit, like normal Stayman, but is used later in an auction. It's main purpose is to firstly discover the Opener's points, then find a major fit. This Convention best suits the ACOL 1NT and 2NT rebids, but can be used in other systems as well. For the majors, it helps distinguish between the majors being a four cards or a five card suit. There are variations to Checkback and the one I give you here is the most common version. Over time you may wish to look at other options, but make sure you get the basics right first.

Employing this Convention, allows the Opener to bypass a major to show their points first, knowing full well partner can ask more questions if interested in game.

Example 1:

1♦ - 1♥
1NT - 2♣

Opener is not denying spades, by bidding 1NT. Also the responder could have 5 hearts
2♣ is Checkback (not natural) and is now asking partner to clarify their major situation

2♣ is promising at least an invitational hand (i.e. 9+ in ACOL as the 1NT rebid shows 15-17). Be careful when Opener starts with 1♣ as 2♣ over 1NT rebid is not club support. It is always Checkback.

Responses for Example 1

2♦ = both majors = 4 Spades and 3 Hearts
2♥ = 1 major only = 3 Hearts and not 4 spades
2♠ = 1 major only = 4 Spades and not 3 Hearts
2NT = neither major = None of the above options



BON = Both – One – None

Remember: Responder could have 5 hearts, so checkback helps Opener and if they have a 3 card heart suit, they can make an appropriate decision from this point on.

Example 2:

1♥ - 1♠
1NT - 2♣

Opener could have 5 Hearts or 3 spades, by bidding 1NT. Responder could have 5 Spades or 3 Hearts
2♣ is Checkback which will clarify the above possibilities

Responses for Example 2

2♦ = both majors = 3 Spades and 5 Hearts
2♥ = 1 major only = 5 Hearts and not 3 spades
2♠ = 1 major only = 3 Spades and not 5 Hearts
2NT = neither major = None of the above options

The same sequence of bidding applies over a 2NT rebid, but obviously a level higher.

What is shown in these two bidding sequences ?

1♣ - 1♥
1NT - 2♣
2♥ - 2NT

Opener is showing 3 Hearts and not 4 spades. Responder has a an invitational hand and by implication, now has 4♠ (and not 5 hearts), otherwise, why did they use Checkback ?

1♣ - 1♥
1NT - 2♦

Responder has a weak two suited hand and does not want to be in 1NT or game. It is a non forcing bid

A rule of thumb to help remember:

1. If a major has not been mentioned by Opener, Responder is asking if Opener has 4 of that major
2. If a major has been mentioned by the Opener, Responder is asking if Opener has 5 of that major
3. If Responder had mentioned a major, Responder is asking if Opener has 3 of that major
4. Checkback is invitational to game, so Responder must have at least an invitational hand
5. The person answering Checkback has 3 responses: BON = **B**oth – **O**ne – **N**one

NB: If Opener chooses another suit instead of rebidding 1NT or 2 NT, they must have a weaker hand and have too much shape to have opened 1NT eg

You hold: ♠ KQT2 ♥ 9 ♦ AJT75 ♣ K62 Bid as follows: 1♦ - 1♥
1♠

What do you bid with the following hands ?

The bidding has gone:

PARTNER	YOU
1 ♣	1 ♥
2 NT	?

1. ♠ 7 6 ♥ K Q 5 2 ♦ K 9 8 7 ♣ 7 6 2	4. ♠ 9 8 5 ♥ A J 8 4 3 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ 8 6
2. ♠ 9 6 ♥ A Q 5 2 ♦ K Q J 8 7 ♣ Q 10 4	5. ♠ 9 8 5 ♥ A J 9 4 3 2 ♦ Q 5 4 ♣ 8
3. ♠ 10 9 7 6 ♥ K Q 5 2 ♦ J 9 8 ♣ 7 6	6. ♠ 9 ♥ A Q 9 8 4 3 ♦ K Q J ♣ Q 8 6

What do you bid with the following hands ?

The bidding has gone:

YOU	PARTNER
1 ♣	1 ♥
1 NT	2 ♣
?	

7. ♠ K J ♥ A Q 9 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ Q 10 5 4 2	9. ♠ A J 9 ♥ A 10 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ A 10 8 7 4
8. ♠ A K 9 8 ♥ A J ♦ 10 5 4 ♣ A 9 8 4	10. ♠ A 10 9 8 ♥ A J 4 ♦ K 5 4 3 ♣ A 9

Answers on the bidding sheet to go with these notes



Checkback

Stayman