

Lesson 11: Pre-emptive Opening Bids

Pre-emptive Opening Bids

2-level openings (except 2♣)

show 6-10 and a **good** 6-card suit

3-level openings

show 6-10 and a **good** 7-card suit

4-level openings (♥ or ♠)*

show 6-10 and a **good** 8-card suit

* *The chances of making game in a minor is much less- the risks outweigh the potential benefits*

The pre-emptive opening is a **destructive** opening. Once you open you will **rarely bid again** –you have described your hand very accurately – from now on it is up to partner to bid on, double or pass.

Examples:

♠ KJ107543

♥ AJ3

♦ K8

♣ 7

Open 1♠

♠ 2

♥ AQ8762

♦ 962

♣ K72

Open 2♥

♠ 2

♥ AJ3

♦ J98542

♣ KJ4

Pass (*poor suit*)

♠ AQJ87432

♥ 43

♦ 74

♣ 9

Open 4♠

♠ 4

♥ K6

♦ 542

♣ KJ87653

Open 3♣

Responses:

WITH A 'FIT'

Bid to the level of your fit. If partner opens with a preemptive 2♥ (showing 6 hearts) and you have three hearts, bid 3♥ regardless of your strength. Do so even with zero points! You have nine hearts between you, so bid to make nine tricks. If partner opens 3♠ (showing 7 spades) and you have three spades, bid 4♠. You have a combined ten spades, so bid to make ten tricks.

WITHOUT A FIT,

Only bid your own suit or No Trumps if you have a good hand.

Count your HCP excluding Queens and Jacks (Quacks):

- To respond to partner's weak 2 you need 12+ HCP
- To respond to partner's weak 3 you need 15+ HCP

Bidding a new suit

If you are very short in partner's suit, (a singleton or void), **DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO RESCUE PARTNER** by bidding your own suit. A new suit bid is forcing, showing partner some hope of making game, maybe in No Trumps, your suit or partner's suit. Partner must bid again. You need an excellent suit and at least opening points to bid a new suit. Partner is likely to be very short in **your** suit.

Bidding 3NT

This can be a very risky bid, even with 16+ HCP. Partner's only tricks may be in their long suit, so you will very probably need cards in their suit to enjoy them. If you can't get across to partner's hand enough times to establish their suit holding as winners then their hand might be worthless. Two card support is risky, three card support should be safe.