

# Pre-emptive Bids

These are bids that jump two or more levels of bidding; usually opening at the three or four level. They aim to take away bidding space from the opposition, forcing them to guess at a higher level.

## Requirements

- A **long strong suit**, normally at least seven cards and **fewer than 10 HCP**
- Very **few defensive** tricks – certainly not as many as two aces
- No side 4-card major suit ( because of the risk of missing a better contract)
- Expect to go down no more than three tricks *non-vulnerable* or two tricks *vulnerable*. (Rule of 500). E.g.
  - ♠ K Q J 9 7 4 3 – is probably worth six tricks. Open 3♠ non-vulnerable
  - ♥ A Q 10 9 8 7 4 3 is probably worth seven tricks. Open 3♥ vulnerable or even 4♥ non-vulnerable.

## Responses to partner's pre-empt

**Don't try to rescue her opening bid**, even if you have none in her suit. She has a good suit and can cope.

Don't worry about your lack of support. Normally, don't bid no trumps – you will be unable to use her suit.

**Count your winners**. With three **tricks** raise her vulnerable pre-empt. With **four** raise her non-vulnerable call.

## Quiz - Taken from Book 1 "Beginning Bridge", page 143

With each of these hands say **how many tricks** they are worth. What would you open, a) not vul. b) vul?

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

Answers

- 1 **Six** certain tricks. Open **3♦** not vul, pass vul.
- 2 **Five** almost certain tricks. A bit weak but most would open **3♥** not vul and pass vul.
- 3 **Eight** very likely tricks. Open **4♠** both not vul and vul.
- 4 More tricky - **Six** fairly certain tricks **but 13** points. Club values make this 7 or 8 tricks. Open **1♠** but **4♠** in third or fourth seat, if not vul. Same if vul.  
**Slam is less likely if partner has originally passed.** Pre-empts in third or fourth seat can be from stronger hands – after three hands there is no one to shut out!
- 5 **Six** tricks in clubs plus a possible one in spades. Not vul open **3♣** . Vul pass unless you are third in hand when you might open **3♣** .
- 6 **Eight** likely tricks in diamonds. Open **5♦** not vul. **4♦** if vul.
- 7 **Seven** tricks. **4♥** not vul, **3♥** if vul. An outside ace is not a bar to a pre-empt.
- 8 **Four** heart tricks likely. If the hearts break well it may make **five** or even **six**. **Pass!!** The weak suit and good defensive values make this a poor hand to pre-empt on.