

Opening Three (and higher) Bids (Intro)

These calls describe weak hands with a long suit. They are obstructive bids, designed to make it difficult for the opponents to reach their best contract.

Requirements

Seven card (or longer) suit.
6-9hcp (Open One of a suit with more)
High cards should be in the long suit. (2 of top 3 honours)
Non Vulnerable: expect to take 3 less tricks than your bid.
Vulnerable: expect to take 2 less tricks than your bid.

Indications against Preempting.

Poor quality suit
More than one ace
Defensive tricks
An outside 4 card major suit
Vulnerability

When estimating how many tricks your hand will take, assume the outstanding cards in your long suit are distributed evenly amongst the other players.

You are offering to pay a price (maximum -500) that you hope will achieve a better result for you than if the opponents were allowed to bid freely. You are trying to make it difficult for the opponents to bid accurately.

You should preempt to the full potential of your hand and should not bid again unless your partner makes a forcing bid. Accept partner's decisions. Partner's raises are NOT invitations.

Examples: ♠3 ♥KQJ9754 ♦92 ♣83 Open 3♥ (NV).
 ♠AKJT984 ♥86 ♦52 ♣97 Open 3♣
 BUT ♠J986432 ♥KJT9 ♦- ♣K8 Pass (Suit quality, defensive tricks, other major)

Position at the table

1st and 2nd seat. Stick strictly to guidelines. Partner may have a good hand. Give partner honest information.
3rd seat, Can loosen up slightly. Partner is known not to have an opening bid.
4th seat. You can preempt in fourth seat, but bid something you expect to make. If you open and get a minus score, you should have allowed the hand to be passed out.

Responding to Preempts

Pass with a misfit and no chance of game.

Raise partners suit with any support. Not much needed. If prepared to go to 5 level as sacrifice, bid it straight away. Do not wait to be pushed. (ex spades – let ops have 5 level). These raises are NOT invitations.

Partner opens 3♣ You hold ♠AJ8 ♥52 ♦Q982 ♣9832 Bid 4♣. You expect this contract to fail but the penalty will be cheaper than the 4♥ contract the opponents are about to bid and make. Let the opponents decide whether to bid 5♥ or double.

Partner opens 3♥ You hold ♠AK87 ♥8 ♦AQ3 ♣A7642 Bid 4♥ which you expect to make (not 3NT – Partner has not promised a solid suit and there is likely to be an entry problem setting up and using partner's long suit).

3NT is to play. Something (eg doubleton honour) in partner's suit is usually needed.

Change of suit is forcing for one round. Partner has promised not to have a FOUR card major, but 2 or 3 card support is possible.

Higher Opening Bids Preempt as high as possible. Say it all with one bid.

♠AKJT8763 ♥7 ♦92 ♣83 Open 4♣
♠94 ♥- ♦KQJ986543 ♣T5 Open 5♦

Premptive Overcalls. Same as opening preempt except opponents have opened the bidding. Steal the opponent's bidding space. But be careful, they know more about each other's cards and are better placed to double for penalty.