



## Lesson 33 Examples

### A typical Pre-emptive opener

♠KQJ10965      You have a fine long spade suit, few HCP but lots of playing potential with spades as trump. Poor in points, rich in playing tricks. You would like to play the hand in spades.  
 ♥52  
 ♦764      What is the best tactic? You can hardly open 1♠ when partner will expect 12+HCP  
 ♣3      A3♠ opener is used to show a 7+ card decent suited hand with relatively few HCP.

### A pre-empt in action:

NS Vul	♠A	
Dealer E	♥J10863	
	♦102	
	♣QJ842	
♠842		♠KQJ10965
♥97	N	♥52
♦QJ983	W E	♦764
♣1075	S	♣3
	♠73	
	♥AKQ4	
	♦AK5	
	♣AK96	

South, having carefully counted his 23HCP, is ready to open with the strongest bid, 2♣, when – East opens 3♠!

Suppose South doubles for penalties? He makes just 1 spade 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club. Two down, for 300.

Here he could score 2210 for a Grand Slam in hearts. Or 1460 for the small slam. Even 4♥+3 scores 710. But swop the North and West hands and he might have to settle for +100 from 3♠ doubled. His only game is 5♦.

This is the purpose of a pre-emptive bid: to make it difficult for the stronger side to bid accurately to their best spot

### Some pre-emptive openings

♠72  
 ♥KQJ10852  
 ♦94  
 ♣84

**6 playing tricks** in hearts.  
 Open 3♥ non-vulnerable.  
 Vulnerable it is better to pass

♠AQJ10942  
 ♥K2  
 ♦5  
 ♣QJ6

**6/7 playing tricks** in spades  
 But with 13 HCP you open 1♠

♠K2  
 ♥KJ1096543  
 ♦-  
 ♣532

3♥ is possible at any vulnerability  
 Non-vulnerable you might open 4♥!  
 The higher you bid, the more difficult you make it for opponents.



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### Some examples from World Championships:

♠Q  
 ♥Q  
 ♦J85  
 ♣KQ1087653

When RHO passed Soulet (FRA)  
 opened 3♣ at Game All  
 Lair (USA) opened 4♣

♠87  
 ♥AKJ9875  
 ♦10  
 ♣972

Faigenbaum (FRA) opened 3♥  
 non-vul v vul. Manfield (USA)  
 opened 4♥

♠KJ76432  
 ♥102  
 ♦-  
 ♣Q1053

Rasmussen (NOR) opened 3♠  
 nonvul. Muller of Netherlands  
 opened 4♠

♠AJ98532  
 ♥875  
 ♦-  
 ♣K106

Non-vulnerable v Vulnerable Maas (Netherlands) opened 3♠  
 Nilsland (Sweden) tried 4♠, but that did not work well!

You can see that top players are not very good at counting Playing Tricks!

### The pre-emptive overcall

♠64  
 ♥KJ109752  
 ♦QJ10  
 ♣2

A non-vulnerable 3♥ opener - about 6 playing tricks and not many HCP  
 If RHO opens 1♣ or 1♦ you can still bid 3♥, a **double jump** with exactly the same  
 meaning as an opening bid at the 3-level.  
 Over 1♠ you could bid 3♥, that is a **weak jump overcall**

♠954  
 ♥Q52  
 ♦AK107543  
 ♣-

In a World Championship the Swede  
 Kirchhoff overcalled 1♣ with 3♦, pre-emptive

♠AQ1097643  
 ♥9  
 ♦9832  
 ♣-

A non-vulnerable 4♠ overcall if RHO  
 opens 1♣, 1♦ or 1♥. Vulnerable you might  
 settle for 3♠



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### Responding to pre-emptive bids

West opens 3♠ non-vulnerable. What should East do?

♠KQJ9754	1) ♠10832	2) ♠A8	3) ♠6
♥93	♥Q864	♥AK652	♥KQJ4
♦5	♦9632	♦A63	♦KQJ3
♣J42	♣A	♣Q53	♣Q965
3♠	??	??	??

With hand 1) raise to 4♠, not because you think it will make, but because you have *so little defence*.

As it happens partner can ruff two clubs in your hand and make 9 tricks, demonstrating the power of the 11-card fit. ***Opponents must have game in any other suit.***

With hand 2) you should also raise to 4♠, this time because you believe he will make 10 tricks - his seven playing tricks plus your **3 Quick Tricks** in the red suits. The ace of spades ought to ensure that he has no losers in trump.

With hand 3) you should Pass. You have no help for partner in trump, no aces, only 2 Quick Tricks. There will be at least 4 tricks to lose.

Some players are tempted to bid 3NT with this sort of hand but that is a Bad Idea.

You will not be able to cash many spade tricks, because you cannot get to dummy, and you do not have 9 tricks in your own hand.

### Bidding a new suit when partner has pre-empted

♠72	♠KQJ1094	♠K2
♥AKQJ10852	♥2	♥A65
♦-	♦AK53	♦8
♣A82	♣Q6	♣AKQJ532
3♠ ?	3♣ ?	3♦ ?
Bid 4♥, what you think you can make. Game bids are to play, no arguments!	3♠(forcing) in case partner has 2/3 spades and can raise. Without support he will bid 4♣ and you can pass	3NT. A reasonable shot this time even without support because you have a <b><i>running suit</i></b> of your own.