

## TO OPEN OR NOT

If you've played for many years, we were told when we started to play that we had to have 13 HCP's to open the bidding with 1 of a suit. Over the years, experience has taught us that it's a good thing for our side to be in the bidding. Why? Because it can often prevent an opponent from making the bid they intended to make. Not only some of my partners, but many of the opponents are opening hands which I wouldn't open and many are NOT opening hands which I would open.

This quiz is 5 hands where you have to decide whether you would open or not, and if you would, what would be your opening bid.

You hold the South hand in each of the 5 questions:

1. Q6  
K1062  
KQ98  
Q94
2. QJ  
Q962  
KQ  
Q6432
3. A10974  
6  
AK84  
1096
4. 6  
AJ10953  
72  
A1098
5. KJ1063  
Q9753  
2  
K4

Avoid opening borderline hands. An example of this is a 4-3-3-3 hand with 12 HCP's (unless you have 2 Aces)

Be very careful in competitive auctions when you are bidding before your partner.

10873  
A83 3 Clubs  
52  
AQ73

QJ94  
9762 Pass  
Q98 Pass  
J5

AK62 DEALER 1 NT  
QJ104 Pass  
K63  
K8

5  
K5 2 NT  
AJ1074 Pass  
109642

East opens 1NT and South bids 2 NT, this is unusual and shows at least 5-5 in the minors.  
West has no bid. North likes clubs and bids 3 clubs. East & West are out of the auction.

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Q72 DEALER – 1 NT  
A82 2 Diamonds  
AKJ2  
Q83

J54  
J5 Pass  
Q96  
A1074

1083  
Q74 Pass  
853 Pass  
KJ962

AK96  
K10963 2 Clubs (Stayman)  
1074 3 Spades (Smolen) or  
5 3 Hearts (no Smolen)

North opens 1 NT, South wants to be in game, but which game? 2 Clubs (Stayman) asks for a 4 card major. North denies one. Playing Smolen, you jump in your 4 card major, partner doesn't have one, showing 5 of the other major. If partner has 3 of the other major, they bid game in that major. If partner has only 2 of the other major, they bid 2NT.

Not playing Smolen, you jump in your 5 card major, and ask partner if they have 3 of that major. You know they don't have 4, if they have 3, they bid game in that major. If they have 2, they bid 3NT. Playing Smolen, the 1 NT opener is the declarer. You give nothing up by playing Smolen. You do have to Alert it.

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