

When to open

Length, rule of 20, position



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Tips – open with length

♠	Q J 7
♥	K Q 10 9 8 5
♦	10 9
♣	K 8

West	North	East	South
		Pass	?

- What do you bid?
- Always open with 13+ high card points
- Open with 12+ high card points if you have a 5 card suit in the major
- Open with 11+ high card points if you have a 6 card or longer suit
- Why? 8 cards is a fit (the opposition only have 5). So if you have more cards in a long suit, partner needs less for a fit. There are also more cards available for trumping in the long hand.
- Bid 1♥

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Tips - Rule of 20



Add the number of cards in your two longest suits to your high card points



If you reach 20, open



This is a fancy way of accounting for length and shortage

10s, 9s, 8s are more valuable than 4s, 3s, 2s

Singleton K, Q, J should be discounted

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Tips – Rule of 20

♠	9 8
♥	A Q 10 9 8
♦	K Q 10 6
♣	10 5

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	?

- What do you bid?
- You have 11 high card points
- You don't have a six card suit
- You have 9 cards in your 2 longest suits.
 $11+9 = 20$
- There have been 2 passes in front of you
- The hand has lots of 10s, 9s and 8s
- There is probably a part score and we want to make it difficult for W to bid
- Bid 1♥

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Tips – position at the table matters

♠	A Q J 10 6
♥	Q 9 8
♦	Q 10 9
♣	3 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	?

- What do you bid?
- There have been 2 passes in front of you
- You have 11 high card points.
- There is probably only a partscore available
- You can only reach 19 if you add the number of cards in your 2 longest suits
- You have an excellent spade suit and would like partner to lead this. Spades are also the boss suit.
- Open light (10+ high card points) in 3rd or 4th seat with a good spade suit
- Bid 1♠
- Check with your partner before playing light openings – you don't want to give them a surprise!

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Summary

- Open with 13+ high card points
- Otherwise, open where you can!
- Open with length 12+ high card points and 5 cards in major
- Open with length 11+ high card points and 6 cards in the major
- Shortages matter – use the rule of 20 to see if you can open
- Position at the table matters – if you are in the 3rd seat to bid and there are two passes, consider opening with 10+ points if you have good spades.

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