



What does an opening bid of 3NT mean?

The usual agreement is NOT that it's natural. Remember to ALERT it. A hand strong enough to make 3NT by itself would be opened with the "strong hand" opening bid in your system. In Basic ACOL that would be 2♣, in Benjaminised ACOL that would be 2♦.

An opening 3NT is often agreed to mean the "Gambling 3NT". It tells partner that opener has a solid (A K Q J x x x) suit in either Clubs or Diamonds and therefore that partner can rely on you for seven tricks in that minor, but nothing else. This means nothing higher than a Queen in any of the other three suits.

♠ 3 2

♥ J 10

♦ 3 2

♣ A K Q J 4 3 2



Responding to Gambling 3NT

Partner's role is to consider whether they can stop a run by the opponents in the other three suits. If they can, two more tricks will also come. With:

♠ A 3 2

♥ Q J 10

♦ K Q 4 3 2

♣ 3 2

Partner can pass, knowing the solid minor in opener's hand must be Clubs.

♠ 4 3 2

♥ K Q J 10

♦ Q 4 3 2

♣ 3 2

Partner should bid 4♣, allowing opener to pass or correct to 4♦ as appropriate.

There are plenty of variations on this theme, so discuss it with partner!