



Pre-Empts (Barrage Hands)

Some hands very long in one suit (7+ cards), even though weak in points.

These provide a chance to shut opponents out with a 3-level opening (or even 4 level with eight cards). You can also use them to make a double or triple jump overcall.

The strategy is:

- ♣ To make it hard for the opponents to bid their hands.
- ♣ To take on a sacrifice contract if appropriate.
- ♣ To give your partner a good description of your hand. Partner may be able to bid a game or even slam contract.

Which hands qualify?

- ♣ Hands that have a suit at least 7 cards long
- ♣ Hands with 6-9/10 points (most 10 HCP hands are better opened at the 1 level – check out Rule of Twenty)
- ♣ Most of the points in the suit bid (The plan is that you will make six tricks in the suit, and make at least another in partner's hand).
- ♣ (No outside aces, well, maybe one)
- ♣ No outside 4 card major



Examples

♠ 8 3
♥ A K J 8 6 3 2
♦ J 4
♣ 3 2

Open 3♥

♠ 9 8
♥ A K J 8 5 3
♦ 9 6 2
♣ 5 4

Pass (6 Hearts) (or open a Weak 2)

♠ Q 4
♥ K 9 7 6 5 4 3
♦ Q 3
♣ Q 7

Pass (Points too Spread)



♠ K Q J 9 7 4 3 2

♥ 6

♦ Q J 10

♣ 5

Open 4♠ (8 cards)

Count the cost

If you are vulnerable, two undertricks, doubled, will cost 500.

- ♣ If opponents are vulnerable, their game is worth 600+, so this is a good deal.
- ♣ If opponents are not vulnerable, their game is only worth 400+, so it is not a good deal.

If not vulnerable, two undertricks, doubled, will cost 300.

- ♣ Opponents game is worth 400 or 600 + so it's always worth it to keep opponents from game.
- ♣ If they are vulnerable, you can afford three tricks short, doubled (500 given away instead of 600+).



If your partner pre-empt

You need around 16HCP to reply. Do not try to rescue partner by bidding another suit!

If you have the points and / or shape to consider raising the contract the choice will be raising to game in the suit or 3NT.

Consider how you will get to your partner's suit in No Trumps. There won't be many outside entries, possibly there will be none. So you need at least two cards in partner's suit, and a stop in each of the other three suits to bid No Trumps.

With no cards, or one card, in partner's suit, but lots of outside strength, consider game in partner's suit. Hopefully you'll be trumping your lower cards in the outside suits.



BJ L01 Pre-empts

NOTES

Remember partner is WEAK

After partner's 3♥ opening:

♠ A 8 3

♥ A 7

♦ Q 6 4 3

♣ 8 4 3 2

Pass (not enough HCP)

♠ K Q 2

♥ 8 5 3

♦ A K 6 2

♣ A Q 4

Raise to 3NT

♠ A Q 4 2

♥ 9

♦ K Q J 3

♣ A J 10 7

Raise to 4♥



You can bid a pre-emptive overcall

<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	3♥		

East's 3♥ bid shows a pre-emptive quality hand. Purpose is to inform partner and disrupt opponents. The clue is the double jump; 1♥ would be a "simple" overcall showing a good suit and 8-14HCP; 2♥ is usually "intermediate" showing six in the suit and 11-15 HCP; 3♥ is pre-emptive.