

§35. Pre-emptive Opening Bids.

By the end of this chapter you should understand the following terms:

Pre-empt: Means “buy before” and the idea is that you buy the auction before the opponents can get together and determine their own best spot. In this chapter we look at opening bids at the three, four or five-level.

Rule of 500: The idea that a pre-emptive bid should be within three tricks of the contract non-vulnerable and two when vulnerable. Thus, the maximum cost is 500 if Doubled.

In this chapter we look at opening bids at the three-level or higher. Strong hands can be dealt with by other methods; opening with a bid of 3♥ for example would **not** show a hand that was “too strong” to open with 1♥ or 2♣.

The word “pre-empt” means to “buy before” and the art of good bridge is to try to **buy** the contract **before** the opponents get their heads together. The only way to do this is to **bid as high as you dare as quickly as you can**. This will create huge problems for your opponents and is the main aim of pre-emptive bidding – that is: make the opponents' lives a misery!

The following hands are all suitable for pre-emptive bidding:

<p>Ex 1.</p> <p>♠ A Q J 9 7 6 5 ♥ 7 6 2 ♦ Q 4 ♣ 9</p> <p>This hand is only suitable for playing in Spades. Open 3♠.</p>	<p>Ex 2.</p> <p>♠ 10 4 3 ♥ J ♦ A K J 10 6 5 3 ♣ 5 2</p> <p>This hand is only suitable for playing in Diamonds. Open 3♦.</p>	<p>Ex 3.</p> <p>♠ 8 2 ♥ A K Q 10 9 8 4 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ 3</p> <p>This hand is only suitable for playing in Hearts. Open 4♥.</p>	<p>Ex 4.</p> <p>♠ K ♥ 5 ♦ 8 2 ♣ A K Q J 10 8 7 6 4</p> <p>This hand is only suitable for playing in Clubs. Open 5♣.</p>
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The essential conditions for sound pre-emptive bidding are laid out below:

- You must have a long suit of your own (usually a seven-card suit or longer) that does not require much support.
- You should have an expectation of being within three tricks of your contract **in your own hand**. (Maybe two tricks when vulnerable).
- You should have very little in the way of high cards outside your main suit. In general, this means that you have less than an opening bid (9 points or less, say) to open with a three-bid.
- You should have no other suit in your hand suitable to be trumps.

As a general rule, a pre-emptive bidder is a two-way winner if he allowed to buy the contract. If partner takes his dummy with some useful cards then the contract will make. If the dummy hits the deck with rubbish then the contract will fail for sure but you will be able to point out to the opponents that they could have made a substantial contract of their own. Great fun!

The following hands are **not** suitable for opening with pre-emptive three-bids. Can you see why?

<p>Ex 5.</p> <p>♠ A 10 9 4 ♥ K J 10 7 6 5 2 ♦ Q 10 ♣ None</p> <p>Too strong for 3♥ and there is also a four-card Spade suit; this hand may play well in Spades. Open 1♥.</p>	<p>Ex 6.</p> <p>♠ J 8 7 6 5 3 2 ♥ None ♦ A J 8 4 ♣ K 6</p> <p>The Spades are far too feeble for a pre-emptive 3♠ and the rest of the hand is too strong. Pass initially, bid later.</p>	<p>Ex 7.</p> <p>♠ K ♥ A ♦ K 9 7 6 5 3 2 ♣ 10 9 4 3</p> <p>Overall, this hand is too strong for a 3♦ pre-empt and the Diamond suit is too flimsy. Pass initially, bid later.</p>	<p>Ex 8.</p> <p>♠ Q ♥ Q 9 8 4 3 ♦ None ♣ A Q J 8 7 5 2</p> <p>Too strong to open 3♣. Also, there is a five-card Heart suit and it may play well in that strain. Open 1♣.</p>
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Responding to Pre-emptive Opening Bids.

When you open with a pre-emptive bid you are sending a clear message to partner – “I want my suit to be trumps!” Therefore, you would not be pleased if partner were to suggest a suit of his own. The whole art here of responding to pre-empts is to picture partner's likely hand. The hand in the box to the right is a typical hand that would open with a pre-emptive bid (in this case 3♥). As the *partner* of a pre-emptor this is the sort of hand you should visualise opposite.

A classic 3♥ opener.	
♠	7
♥	K Q J 10 6 5 3
♦	4 2
♣	8 5 3

You ought to realise that the partner of a pre-emptor will need to produce three tricks if the three-level contract is to make! So, if your partner opens with a three-bid it is often wise simply to Pass. Generally you need Aces and Kings (known as **quick tricks**) to bid at all and then the best bid is often to raise partner's suit, not mess about with some feeble suit of your own. Note that it is rare to play the hand in anything other than partner's long suit – 3NT needs a **fit** in partner's suit to have any chance of making.

Some examples might make this clear. Consider the four hands below and try a short **Quiz**.

In each case what should you do as responder if your partner opens with 3♥? (If it helps, try putting each hand opposite the hand in the box above and see what the best contract is).

Q1. ♠ K Q J 10 9 ♥ 4 ♦ K Q J 10 ♣ Q 10 2	Q2. ♠ A 8 6 2 ♥ A ♦ A 8 7 6 5 ♣ A J 9	Q3. ♠ None ♥ A 9 4 2 ♦ 9 3 2 ♣ K 9 7 6 4 2	Q4. ♠ A K Q 8 5 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ 6 ♣ 10 6 4 2
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Answers.

A1. Pass.	Heaven protect us from partners who bid 3♠! 4♥ is a vague possibility but is wildly optimistic. Pass 3♥ and hope partner makes the contract. 3NT is unspeakable – where are nine tricks coming from?
A2. 4♥.	Four certain tricks look likely to be enough for game facing a long, strong Heart suit. 3NT would be foolish without an <i>entry</i> to partner's hand.
A3. 4♥.	Only 7 points? Yes, but firstly you may make this contract and secondly, you may deter the opposition from bidding 4♣. You don't mind failing if the enemy can make game!
A4. 4♥.	With trump support, a <i>ruffing value</i> and some quick tricks this contract should be easy. Note that the opponents might be able to make 5♦. 3♠ would be a ghastly bid.

If partner opens the bidding with a **four-level** pre-emptive bid, then responding is usually easy – if he opens with 4♥ or 4♣ you will almost always **Pass** although (with a good hand) you might bid a slam in partner's suit. If partner opens with 4♣ or 4♦ then you will either Pass or raise to the five-level with a good hand. You would only introduce your own suit if you had a seven or eight-card suit.

The general rule to follow is that **you are not being invited to the party!** As examples how would you bid the hands below?

Q5. Partner opens 4♥. ♠ K 10 7 6 ♥ 2 ♦ A J 8 5 ♣ K 10 4 2	Q6. Partner opens 4♣. ♠ J 9 5 4 2 ♥ Q 10 8 7 4 3 ♦ K Q ♣ None	Q7. Partner opens 4♦. ♠ A Q 3 ♥ A K J 9 5 ♦ 2 ♣ A Q J 3	Q8. Partner opens 4♥. ♠ A K J 9 6 3 ♥ None ♦ K 9 7 6 2 ♣ A 3
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Answers.

A5. Pass.	What else? Your high cards might just enable partner to scrape home in this contract; certainly, you won't make a slam.
A6. Pass.	Quickly. This hand has nothing to do with you; wish partner good luck (or good night) and table the dummy.
A7. 5♦/6♦.	Your high cards should enable 5♦ to make easily. 6♦ would not be unreasonable and, indeed, would probably make more often than not. 4♥ would be a ghastly bid.
A8. Pass	Partner's Hearts are likely to be much better (and certainly longer) than your Spades. Little chance of making more than 4♥. 4♣ would be an awful effort.

§35. Example hands 1 to 4.

Hand 1 Love all, dealer North

<p>♠ 3 ♥ 4 ♦ K Q 10 9 8 7 4 ♣ J 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ K 9 6 4 2 ♥ K 8 2 ♦ 6 3 ♣ A 9 2</p> <p>♠ A Q 8 7 5 ♥ A Q 6 3 ♦ 2 ♣ K 10 7</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	<p>♠ J 10 ♥ J 10 9 7 5 ♦ A J 5 ♣ Q 6 3</p>	
N		E							
W		S							

West	North	East	South
	3♦	All Pass	
3♦ by North		Opening lead: ♥J	

Non-vulnerable, North has just about the perfect hand for a pre-emptive opening bid of 3♦. East has nothing to say and the spotlight turns to South. Now, it is a common error to bid on that type of hand, usually with the heart-rending cry of "I had 15 points, I had to bid!" However, North has told the world that Diamonds must be trumps and South has a singleton Diamond, which means that the deal is a *misfit*. Since North has shown a poor hand and a long suit it also unlikely that he has support for South's suits. All of this (strongly) suggests that South should Pass, with 3NT especially pointless. Also, South should Pass smoothly; on other layouts West, thinking he is being swindled, might want to bid something – and that would suit South down to the ground.

Hand 2 North-South game, dealer East

<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ A K 5 4 2 ♦ K J 8 ♣ 10 9 2</p> <p>♠ A 9 8 ♥ 6 ♦ 10 7 6 5 2 ♣ A K 5 4</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ Q J 10 9 8 ♦ A Q 9 3 ♣ Q J 7</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	<p>♠ K Q J 10 7 6 4 ♥ 7 3 ♦ 4 ♣ 8 6 3</p>	
N		E							
W		S							

West	North	East	South
	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
4♣ by East		Opening lead: ♥Q	

East has a classic opening three-bid with a long, strong suit and little (or no) defence. This will irritate South, who has a decent opening bid. Much as South would like to enter the fray, he cannot justify a bid at the four-level. As it happens, a bid of 4♥ would hit the mark as North has a suitable hand opposite, but the risk in such a bid is high. West, knowing of a good suit opposite knows that he can contribute three or four tricks to his side's cause so should raise to 4♣. Notice the value of the singleton Heart and the fact that West has *quick tricks*. In practice, 4♣ makes easily with the frustrated North-South pair able to make 4♥. It would be best for North-South to play in 5♥ down one but how can they get in the auction?

Hand 3 East-West game, dealer South

<p>♠ A ♥ A K 4 3 ♦ K J 8 4 ♣ A 8 6 3</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ Q J 10 9 8 ♦ A Q 9 3 ♣ Q J 7</p> <p>♠ K Q J 10 8 7 6 ♥ 7 5 ♦ 10 6 ♣ 9 2</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	<p>♠ 9 5 4 2 ♥ 6 2 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ K 10 5 4</p>	
N		E							
W		S							

West	North	East	South
	4♣	All Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	
4♣ by South		Opening lead: ♥Q	

South has a clear-cut, non-vulnerable opening bid of 3♣, making West's life a misery. West actually has a similar hand to the South cards of Hand 2, but this time a bid of 4♥ would be walloped all around the room. (In plain English: *would be Doubled by North for a huge penalty*). This, essentially, is the rationale of pre-emptive bidding – **make the opposition guess**. If the opponents are forced into guesswork, they must guess wrong some of the time. Now, assuming West Passes 3♣, what should North bid? No, *not* 3NT since the South hand is highly unlikely to have an *entry* and therefore the Spades will never make tricks. With a good hand, including the all-important *quick tricks*, North should raise to 4♣.

Hand 4 Game all, dealer West

<p>♠ J 10 9 5 ♥ K 8 ♦ 10 9 4 3 ♣ 7 5 3</p> <p>♠ 7 2 ♥ A Q J 10 9 7 5 ♦ 6 ♣ 9 6 4</p> <p>♠ A 8 3 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ K Q 8 7 ♣ A J 2</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	<p>♠ K Q 6 4 ♥ 2 ♦ A J 5 2 ♣ K Q 10 8</p>	
N		E							
W		S							

West	North	East	South
3♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
3♥ by West		Opening lead: ♠J	

Another deal to show that pre-empting at the three-level can cause the opposition a great deal of difficulty. West should open 3♥ as dealer and East should most definitely Pass, preferably without a flicker. 3NT would be ghastly (where are the requisite nine tricks coming from?) and East doesn't have the essential *quick tricks* for a raise to 4♥. Best is a smooth Pass, giving nothing away, leaving South feeling very frustrated. What should South do? Pass? Bid something? Well, on this hand, today, bidding (what?) leads to disaster as North has nothing. Tomorrow, however, with a different lie of the cards, it could be right to bid. Don't forget that the fundamental rationale of opening with a pre-emptive bid is: *Make the opponents guess!*

§35. Example hands 5 to 8.

Hand 5 North-South game, dealer North

♠ K J 7 3 ♥ 2 ♦ 3 ♣ K Q 10 8 7 6 2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N				W	E					S		♠ 5 2 ♥ K Q J 7 ♦ K 6 5 4 2 ♣ 9 4	
N															
W	E														
		S													
♠ 8 6 ♥ 10 9 8 6 ♦ A Q 10 8 ♣ A 5 3		♠ A Q 10 9 4 ♥ A 5 4 3 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ J													

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♠	All Pass	1♠
4♠ by South		Opening lead: ♥10	

Here is a deal where opening with a pre-empt would be the wrong option. North has the right strength for an opening bid of 3♣ but shouldn't do so with four-card support for a major. Were North to open 3♣ South would be well advised to Pass (see the South cards on Hand 1) and North-South would miss the optimum contract of 4♠. So, North should Pass initially and *listen* to the auction. South has a normal opening bid of 1♠ and now North can swing into action. It may be rare for a player to Pass at his first turn and then to raise to game at his second turn, but there's no law against it. Note that 2♠ or 3♠ on the North cards would be feeble. Opposite a known *fit* that North hand has great trick-taking potential.

Hand 6 East-West game, dealer East

♠ A J 7 5 ♥ 9 ♦ Q 9 7 4 3 ♣ K 9 6	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N				W	E					S		♠ 9 ♥ A K Q J 10 7 6 3 ♦ 8 5 2 ♣ 7	
N															
W	E														
		S													
♠ Q 10 ♥ 5 4 2 ♦ J 10 ♣ A Q 8 5 3 2		♠ K 8 6 4 3 2 ♥ 8 ♦ A K 6 ♣ J 10 4													

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass
4♥ by East		Opening lead: ♦A	

If there is a golden rule for pre-empting it is "Bid as high as you dare, as quickly as you can". Here, with eight *playing tricks* East should open 4♥ (not 3♥). This might be a winner in two ways – one it might make and, two, it might jam North-South's bidding so that they miss a contract on their cards. Here, on this deal, both of these conditions are fulfilled. East-West can make 4♥ (losing only one Spade and two Diamonds) and North-South can make 4♠. Whom do you blame (on the North-South cards) for failing to bid 4♠? South would have to have nerves of steel to enter the fray with 4♠ and why should North enter the water at the four-level? So, no-one is at fault, really, North-South are just battered into submission.

Hand 7 Game all, dealer South

♠ A 8 7 ♥ A 5 ♦ J 8 7 3 ♣ A 8 7 4	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N				W	E					S		♠ K J 2 ♥ K Q 10 9 4 3 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ 2	
N															
W	E														
		S													
♠ Q 10 9 6 3 ♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ A 10 9 ♣ 3		♠ 5 4 ♥ 8 ♦ Q 6 4 ♣ K Q J 10 9 6 5													

West	North	East	South
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣
3NT by North		Opening lead: ♥K	

South has a textbook 3♣ opener and North has to find a response. Well, the point-count may suggest a Pass, four trumps may suggest a raise in Clubs. However, this area of the game pays little heed to the point-count. What is obvious to North that his side has a big Club fit – thus the opposition must have a big fit as well. So, North has two objectives: one is to win the auction, the other to make the best use of his side's cards. The answer? Try 3NT! In theory (and, in this case, practice) that should have seven Clubs and two Aces. What is icing on the cake is that East-West can make 4♥, meaning that 3NT is a two-way winner. If North Passes 3♣, East should try 3♥ and then East-West would be on the way to 4♥

Hand 8 Love all, dealer West

♠ A 4 3 ♥ Q J 10 9 ♦ J 3 2 ♣ Q 7 6	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2"></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N				W	E					S		♠ None ♥ A 7 6 5 4 2 ♦ A K 9 8 ♣ A 5 2	
N															
W	E														
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♠ K Q 10 9 8 7 6 ♥ 8 ♦ Q 10 7 ♣ J 3		♠ J 5 2 ♥ K 3 ♦ 6 5 4 ♣ K 10 9 8 4													

West	North	East	South
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass
4♣ by West		Opening lead: ♥Q	

East has the problem here as West should open 3♠. Now what? Well, it only takes a little courage to raise to 4♣ on a void. What are the alternatives? 3NT? Not a chance. After a weak three opening opposite East would have to make nine tricks out of his own hand. 4♥? Well, what is the point of that? What would West be expected to do after that response? Pass, I suppose – but East's Hearts are known to be much weaker than West's Spades. Pass? Well, that's more sensible than either 3NT or 4♥ but with four *quick tricks* East-West are likely to be able to rake in ten tricks in Spades. Thus, this argues for a raise to 4♣. Those pairs (and there are many about) who would bid these hands 3♠ – 3NT – 4♣ are playing ghastly, partnership-mistrusting bridge.

§35. Quiz A on Pre-emptive Opening Bids

In each case you are **South**

In Quiz A you have the opportunity to open the bidding.
What is your best opening bid?

1.

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ 7 2
♥ A Q J 10 9 7 5
♦ 6
♣ 9 6 4

2.

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ Q 2
♥ J 9 7 6 5 4 2
♦ A
♣ 9 6 4

3.

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ 3
♥ 4
♦ K Q 10 9 8 7 4
♣ J 8 5 4

4.

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ 3
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ K Q 10 9 8 7 4
♣ 4

5.

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ 3
♥ 4
♦ A Q 10 9 8 7 4
♣ A 8 5 4

6.

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ A 8 7 5 4 3 2
♥ K J 9 6
♦ 8 5
♣ None

7.

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ A K Q 10 7 6 5 2
♥ 2
♦ 10 5 3
♣ 8

8.

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ 6
♥ 8
♦ K Q J 10 9 7 4 2
♣ Q J 5

9.*

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
			?

♠ 2
♥ A K Q J 10 7 5
♦ K 9 8 7
♣ 6

10.*

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
			?

♠ None
♥ 8 7 5
♦ J
♣ A K 10 8 7 6 4 3 2

§35. Quiz A on Pre-emptive Opening Bids Answers

1.

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West	North	East	South											
			?											

♠ 7 2
 ♥ A Q J 10 9 7 5
 ♦ 6
 ♣ 9 6 4

3♥. Dead centre for an opening pre-empt as dealer. You have a Big Suit (as the Americans say) and nothing outside. With tripe opposite you still figure to make six tricks, so 3♥ shouldn't be too expensive. An ideal hand to try to mess up the opposition.

2.

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West	North	East	South											
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♠ Q 2
 ♥ J 9 7 6 5 4 2
 ♦ A
 ♣ 9 6 4

Pass. Although you have the same 7 points as in Q1 you have a poor suit with more holes than a Swiss cheese and you have values outside of it. This hand may not make many tricks in 3♥ and could prove very expensive if Doubled. Thoroughly unsuitable for 3♥

3.

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West	North	East	South											
			?											

♠ 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ K Q 10 9 8 7 4
 ♣ J 8 5 4

3♦. This is a perfectly good pre-empt with a Big Suit and an otherwise worthless hand. Sure, you have a four-card Club suit but so what? Your major-suit shortages makes it imperative to try to prevent East-West from getting in the auction with their suit(s).

4.

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N														
W E														
S														
West	North	East	South											
			?											

♠ 3
 ♥ J 8 5 4
 ♦ K Q 10 9 8 7 4
 ♣ 4

Pass. Now, in contrast to Q3, you have a side-four-card major. The hand may belong to your side in Hearts and it could be your side that is pre-empted out of the auction should you open 3♦. Note that you would certainly open 3♦ if partner were a Passed hand.

5.

	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">West</td><td style="text-align: center;">North</td><td style="text-align: center;">East</td><td style="text-align: center;">South</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">?</td></tr> </table>	West	North	East	South				?
N														
W E														
S														
West	North	East	South											
			?											

♠ 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ A Q 10 9 8 7 4
 ♣ A 8 5 4

1♦. Your hand is too good for a pre-empt with a good suit, 10 points and two Aces. Partner could easily depress himself into Passing 3♦ with a fair hand and your side might miss a game. The playing strength of the hand justifies an opening bid at the one-level.

6.

	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">West</td><td style="text-align: center;">North</td><td style="text-align: center;">East</td><td style="text-align: center;">South</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">?</td></tr> </table>	West	North	East	South				?
N														
W E														
S														
West	North	East	South											
			?											

♠ A 8 7 5 4 3 2
 ♥ K J 9 6
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ None

Pass. Quite unsuitable to open 3♠ with a tatty suit and a side four-card major. This sort of hand should Pass initially and then intervene later. If partner bids Hearts then this hand is very powerful in support and opening 3♠ would prevent the fit from being discovered.

7.

	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S		<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">West</td><td style="text-align: center;">North</td><td style="text-align: center;">East</td><td style="text-align: center;">South</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">?</td></tr> </table>	West	North	East	South				?
N														
W E														
S														
West	North	East	South											
			?											

♠ A K Q 10 7 6 5 2
 ♥ 2
 ♦ 10 5 3
 ♣ 8

4♣. With a solid eight-card suit you must pre-empt to the limit. *Bid as high as you dare as fast as you can.* If partner obliges with a couple of tricks then 4♣ will make. If not, then surely East-West could have made a high-level contract. Heads you win, tails they lose.

8.

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N														
W E														
S														
West	North	East	South											
			?											

♠ 6
 ♥ 8
 ♦ K Q J 10 9 7 4 2
 ♣ Q J 5

4♦. With an excellent eight-card suit and no defence in the majors you must make it as awkward as you can for East-West. *Bid as high as you dare as fast as you can.* The enemy may allow you to play in 4♦, or they may bid and North may have a nasty surprise for them.

9.

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N														
W E														
S														
West	North	East	South											
	Pass	Pass	?											

♠ 2
 ♥ A K Q J 10 7 5
 ♦ K 9 8 7
 ♣ 6

4♥. This is a tactical shot facing a Passed partner. Had you been first in hand you probably would have opened 1♥; after partner has Passed the over-riding priority is to play the hand and not allow East-West into the auction. 4♥ doesn't need partner to have that much.

10.

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N														
W E														
S														
West	North	East	South											
			?											

♠ None
 ♥ 8 7 5
 ♦ J
 ♣ A K 10 8 7 6 4 3 2

5♣. With a nine-card suit (a very rare occurrence!) you must play this hand in Clubs. Using the principle of *Bid as high as you dare as fast as you can* you must open this hand at the five-level. With luck, that will give East-West nightmares. In any case, 5♣ may well make.

§35. Quiz B on Pre-emptive Opening Bids

In each case you are **South**

In Quiz B your partner has opened the bidding with a pre-empt.
What is your best bid in response?

1.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♣	Pass	?

♠ K 4
♥ A J 7
♦ 10 8 5 3
♣ K 10 6 2

2.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♥	Pass	?

♠ A K 4
♥ A 4 2
♦ A 7 6 4 2
♣ 8 4

3.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♥	Pass	?

♠ Q J 10 8
♥ 7 5 3
♦ K Q J
♣ K Q J

4.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♥	Pass	?

♠ 3
♥ K 9 7
♦ A K 7 6 3
♣ 9 6 5 2

5.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♣	Pass	?

♠ None
♥ A K 7 5
♦ A K 3 2
♣ A 7 5 4 3

6.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♣	Pass	?

♠ 7
♥ K Q J 7
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ K Q 8 6

7.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♦	Pass	?

♠ A 7 6
♥ A 5 3
♦ A 8 5 2
♣ Q J 3

8.

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♣	Pass	?

♠ 5 4
♥ A K Q 2
♦ A K 7 5 3 2
♣ K

9.*

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♥	Pass	?

♠ 9 3
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ Q J 9 8 6 3
♣ 4

10.*

N
W E
S

West	North	East	South
	3♥	Pass	?

♠ A 8 3
♥ None
♦ A K Q J 10 8 5
♣ A 10 3

§35. Quiz B on Pre-emptive Opening Bids Answers

1.

	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S				
N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♠	Pass	?			

♠ K 4
♥ A J 7
♦ 10 8 5 3
♣ K 10 6 2

Pass. Partner has six or seven tricks in his own hand, based on a long Spade suit; opposite this collection he will need a bit of luck to scrape together even nine tricks. North has shown a hand with just seven decent Spades, so much of your hand is of little help to him.

2.

	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S				
N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♥	Pass	?			

♠ A K 4
♥ A 4 2
♦ A 7 6 4 2
♣ 8 4

4♥. Partner has announced seven decent Hearts and little else. You have four *quick tricks* with decent trump support. If you picture seven decent Hearts opposite you should be able to envisage ten tricks for your side made up from seven Heart tricks and Ace-King, Ace.

3.

	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S				
N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♥	Pass	?			

♠ Q J 10 8
♥ 7 5 3
♦ K Q J
♣ K Q J

Pass. Although you have the same number of points as in Q2, you don't have top tricks (or *quick tricks*), so your hand is much less use to partner. You have too many losers to hope to make game and it is possible that 3♥ may fail to make through lack of Aces.

4.

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N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♥	Pass	?			

♠ 3
♥ K 9 7
♦ A K 7 6 3
♣ 9 6 5 2

4♥. A two-way shot. Partner may easily be able to make this (with seven Heart tricks, two Diamonds and a Spade ruff in the *short trump hand*). Also, North-South may be able to make 4♠; you must bid 4♥ to make it more difficult for them to enter the auction.

5.

	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S				
N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♠	Pass	?			

♠ None
♥ A K 7 5
♦ A K 3 2
♣ A 7 5 4 3

4♠. What else? 4♠ is a waste of time and breath (what would you want your partner to bid over *that*?) and you do have a substantial number of *quick tricks*. Again, mentally place seven decent Spades in the hand opposite and 4♠ becomes the most likely spot.

6.

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N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♠	Pass	?			

♠ 7
♥ K Q J 7
♦ K Q 10 5
♣ K Q 8 6

Pass. (As if going to your own funeral!) With decent Spades but little else in the North hand you won't make game (there is a distinct lack of Aces). However, if you Pass quickly, one of the opponents might come into the auction, and that will suit you down to the ground.

7.

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N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♦	Pass	?			

♠ A 7 6
♥ A 5 3
♦ A 8 5 2
♣ Q J 3

3NT. An unexpected answer but you can envisage seven Diamond tricks and two Aces – enough to make nine tricks in 3NT. 5♦ surely has too many losers to be worth attempting. It is curious that 3NT is worth attempting when you have a *fit* in partner's suit.

8.

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N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♣	Pass	?			

♠ 5 4
♥ A K Q 2
♦ A K 7 5 3 2
♣ K

5♣. You should aim to play this in Clubs and, with your *quick tricks*, you should have a bash at game. There is little point in bidding your own suit. What would partner be expected to do over 3♦? 3NT is silly with wide open Spades and no guarantee of making Club tricks.

9.

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N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♥	Pass	?			

♠ 9 3
♥ Q 8 7 4
♦ Q J 9 8 6 3
♣ 4

4♥. Or 5♥ or 3NT. Yes, really! East-West can surely make at least a game (4♠, 5♠), so you must try to make it much more difficult for them to bid it. This is called *raising the barrage*. And don't let any busybody tell you that such tactics are underhand. Piffle.

10.

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N								
W E								
S								
		West	North	East	South			
			3♥	Pass	?			

♠ A 8 3
♥ None
♦ A K Q J 10 8 5
♣ A 10 3

3NT. An unexpected answer but the fact is that you have nine near-certain tricks in your own hand. You are boss of the auction so what you say, goes. Usually 3NT is based on a *fit* (cf Q7) but not always. If partner rebids 4♥ you would be entitled to shoot him. Twice.