

High Level Opening Bids

Hands that contain 13+ HCP are usually opened with a bid of one. Hands with 6-12 HCP and a good six card suit other than clubs may be opened with a bid of two in your long suit. What do you do with a hand that is strong enough to almost make game in your own hand? You may have a hand that you are so strong that you do not want to open with a one bid and risk partner having to pass with less than 6 HCP.

We reserve an opening bid of **2C** to show any hand that is strong enough for game. It often contains a strong suit, usually a major, that you will then identify at your next turn.

Opening 2C is strong artificial bid of at least 20+ HCP with a good suit or 22+ HCP if balanced.

Responder bids 2D which is artificial and shows less than 6 HCP or with more responder can bid his longest suit or 2NT with a balanced hand.

Opener would then rebid his real suit or no trump, if balanced, at his next turn.

Rule: When opener bids 2C and rebids a suit on his next bid the partnership must get to game.

Opening suit bids at the 3 level show long suit of usually 7 cards and are designed to make it hard for the opponents to find their best fit. An opening 3 bid should be based on a good suit with your high cards in that suit. You should also consider the vulnerability. The general rule for pre-empts is the rule of 2 and 3. This means that if you are vulnerable you should be within 2

tricks of your bid and if you are not vulnerable you should be within 3 tricks of your bid.

Responders only usual choices when partner opens with a bid of 3 of a suit are to a) Pass without support or enough side suit tricks to make game, b) 3NT with stoppers in the other 3 suits and an honor in partner's suit that you think will produce a lot of tricks, or c) raise partner to game either with good support or sufficient outside tricks that you think you will make game.

Opening bids at the 4 level are much the same as those at the 3 level except since you are one level higher you need either an eight-card suit or an extra high card on the outside that will take a trick.

What would you open the following hands with if not vulnerable?

- a) AQ7 K8 AJ654 KQJ
- b) AQJT76 AK 87 AK6
- c) KQT765 8 8765 54
- d) 87 9 KJT9765 A65
- e) 8 AKQ8765 A765 9
- f) A7 AQ8765 JT76 9
- g) AQ KJ7 AKJ762 A76