

Opening Preempts- 3 Level

Traditionally an opening suit bid at the three level shows a hand with a seven-card suit without the strength in high cards for an opening bid at the one level. Requirements for an opening bid of three of a suit are as follows:

- a) Less strength in high cards than enough to open with one.
- b) A good quality seven card suit (honors with some texture)
- c) Minimal defensive values (like aces and kings in side suits)
- d) When vulnerable you need to be within about 2 tricks of your bid and when not vulnerable within about 3 tricks. This means that if you are vulnerable you need about 7 tricks in your own hand to open with a bid of three of a suit. When not vulnerable you need to have about 6 tricks in your own hand.

An opening three bid, especially in a minor suit, should be obstructive in nature, as opposed to a constructive bid. You want to make it as difficult for the opponents as possible. With a six-card suit and less strength than for an opening one bid, you normally open with a weak two bid. With an eight-card or longer suit you should consider opening at the four level. On some occasions (third seat not vulnerable) with a very good six-card suit you may want to open three.

What would you open with in first seat vulnerable? What about first seat not vulnerable?

- a) AQJ7654 8 987 K7
- b) 87 987 KQJT654 9
- c) QJ76543 K K876 8

- d) 876 Q876543 AQ 9
- e) 87 87 AQ98765 98
- f) 9 AQJT65 9875 87

When partner opens with a three bid, he is generally not interested in playing in another suit. Therefore, as responder, if you change suits partner must bid again. As responder, if you have an opening bid but no support for partner and no chance for a game in a major or NT, then you should pass. With a high honor in partner's suit and an opening bid with stoppers in the other suits you can try 3NT if partner opened with a three bid in a minor. With a good fit for partner's major suit, raise him to game. Even with minimal values, you may not make it but the opponents should be able to make a game themselves.

What would you respond if partner opens 3D in first seat vulnerable?

- a) 76 AKJ654 8 8763
- b) K7 AQJ K65 98762
- c) KQT542 9 K65 KQ6
- d) 8 76 Q876 A87653