

Weak Hand – Long Suit

# Taking Tricks

- In bridge, we win tricks with high cards or with long suits that can be established.
- As your auction proceeds, you must consider how you will produce the tricks for which you contract.
- If you have a lot of high cards, you will take tricks no matter what contract you set.
- But with few high card and a long suit, you can take tricks only when you name that suit trump.

# When Partner Opens No Trump

Your hand

♠ 9 7 6 4 2

♥ 2

♦ 10 8 5 3

♣ 9 4 3

Partner's hand

♠ A 10 8

♥ A 9 4 3

♦ A K

♣ 10 7 6

- You have zero high-card points.
- Your hand does have some value, if you name your long suit trump.
- Partner's hand will take 4 tricks at no trump.
- If you use a transfer and name spades trump, you might actually make 8 tricks.

# When Partner Opens No Trump

Your hand

♠ 4 2

♥ 2

♦ 10 8 5 3

♣ 10 9 8 5 4 3

Partner's hand

♠ A 10 8

♥ A Q 4 3

♦ A 2

♣ Q 7 6 2

- One more example.
- If you transfer to clubs, you'll be at the nine-trick level.
- You will come much closer to making nine tricks with clubs trump.
- Making 7 tricks in no trump will be hard.

# Here's One More Example

Your hand

♠ 4 2

♥ Q 10 8 7 5 2

♦ 8 5 3

♣ 10 5

Partner's hand

♠ A 10 8

♥ A 3

♦ K Q J 2

♣ Q 7 6 2

- Partner opens 1nt.  
You bid 2♦, transfer to hearts.
- 2♥ might make or be down no more than one.
- 1 no trump has no chance.
- Down 3 with good defense.

# The Weak Jump Shift

Your hand

♠ K J 9 5 4 2

♥ 5

♦ 9 5 3

♣ 10 7 5

Partner's hand

♠ 10 8

♥ A J 9 6 5 3

♦ A 8 2

♣ K 2

- Partner opens 1♥
- You want to play in spades.
- If you bid 1♠, partner will likely bid 2♥.
- Or worse, jump to 3♥.
- The way to handle this hand is a weak jump shift.

# Requirement for a Weak Jump Shift

- 0 to 6 or 7 points.
- A 6-card + suit.
- Usually a hand too weak to open with a weak-two bid.
- If you jump shift to the 3 level, you should have a 7-card suit.
- Tells partner to pass, unless she has a very good hand, hopefully with some of your long suit.

# A 3-Level Weak Jump Shift

Your hand

♠ K 2

♥ 5

♦ Q J 9 8 5 3 2

♣ 10 7 5

Partner's hand

♠ 10 8 5

♥ A J 9 6 4 3

♦ A 6

♣ K 2

- Partner opens 1♥
- Your bid 3♦.
- Your bid tells partner to pass and play 3, unless he has very good hand.



# Suppose You Have a Little Stronger Hand?

Your hand

♠ K Q 9 7 5 2

♥ 5

♦ Q J 10

♣ 10 7 5

Partner's hand

♠ 10 8

♥ A J 9 6 4

♦ A 6

♣ K J 9 2

- Don't make a weak jump shift with this hand.
- If partner opens 1♥, bid 1♠.
- If opener makes a minimum bid, simply rebid your spades.
- That shows a weak hand with a 6-card suit.

# Suppose the Hands are Like This

Your hand

♠ K Q 9 7 5 2

♥ 5

♦ Q J 10

♣ 10 7 5

Partner's hand

♠ 10

♥ A K J 9 6

♦ A 6 3

♣ A Q J 9

- When partner has a strong hand, she will show it and your bid will show enough for game.
- Here partner opens 1♥.
- You bid 1♠ and partner makes a strong jump shift to 3♣.

# Perhaps Partner has this Hand

Your hand

♠ K Q 9 7 5 2

♥ 5

♦ Q J 10

♣ 10 7 5

Partner's hand

♠ 10 4

♥ A K J 9

♦ A 6 3

♣ A J 9 7

Partner Opp You Opp

1♣ pass 1♠ pass

2♥ pass 3♠

- Partner's 2♥ bid is a reverse, showing 17+ points.
- You bid 3♠ to show a 6-card suit and game-going points.

# Opening at the Three Level

- Preemptive bids at the 3 level or higher are made with a weak hand, but a long suit, typically a 7 carder.
- You must have a good suit (2 honors) and very little strength outside the bid suit.
- Vulnerability is important.

# 3-Level Opening Ex-1

Your hand

♠ 5 2

♥ 5

♦ K J 9 7 5 4 2

♣ 10 7 5

- Open this hand 3♦, in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> seat if not vulnerable.
- If vulnerable, be cautious.
- In 3<sup>rd</sup> seat, open 3♦, regardless of vulnerability.

# 3-Level Opening Ex-2

Your hand

♠ A Q J 10 8 5 2

♥ 5

♦ Q 10 9 2

♣ 5

- Open 3♠ at any vulnerability.
- Really good suit.
- Excellent distribution.
- If you are not vulnerable vs. vulnerable, you might consider opening 4♠

# 3-Level Opening Ex-3

Your hand

♠ A Q 9 7 5 3 2

♥ Q 5

♦ Q 9 2

♣ 5

You	opp	part	opp
3♠	pass	pass	dbld

Pass	pass
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Know you are in big trouble.

- Beware of suits like this.
- Too many gaps.
- Your two queens are also a liability.
- You might preempt with this hand when not vulnerable.
- Vulnerable, very dangerous.

# 3-Level Opening Ex-4

Your hand

♠ Q J 10 9 8 3 2

♥ Q 5

♦ Q 9 2

♣ 5

- This hand has fewer points than the one in example 3.
- But, it is a better preempt.
- Because of the middle cards.



# 3-Level Opening Ex-5

Your hand

♠ A J 3 2

♥ K Q 9 7 5 3 2

♦ 9 2

♣

- Much too strong for a preempt.
- Open 1♥.

# 3-Level Opening Ex-6

Your hand

♠ A 3 2

♥ K Q 9 7 5 3 2

♦ 9 2

♣ 6

- This is a pretty good preempt..
- But it also has two defensive tricks.

# 4-Level Opening Ex-1

Your hand

♠ 2

♥ A K J 9 7 5 3 2

♦ 9 4 2

♣ 6

- Usually a good 8-card suit.
- Nothing outside your suit.
- You would also make a jump overcall of 4, if an opponent opened the bidding.

# The Shape of Your Preempt

- We have learned that a 4-3-3-3 distribution is bad for declaring a contract.
- Shape is also important when preempting.
- 6-3-3-1 is poor distribution of a preempt.
- 6-4-2-1 much better distribution.
- 7 2-2-2 is poor distribution for a 3-level opening.

# Looking at distribution

Your hand

♠ 4 2

♥ A J 10 9 7 5 3

♦ Q 2

♣ Q 6

- Poor distribution preempt.
- 7-2-2-2 distribution.
- Potentially worthless queens.

# Looking at distribution

Your hand

♠ 4

♥ A J 10 9 7 5 3

♦ A 9 5 2

♣ 6

- Much better distribution.
- 7-4-1-1
- No worthless high cards.
- This hand makes the rule of 20 + 2 and some might open it 1♥.

# Looking at distribution

Your hand

♠ 4

♥ A J 10 9 7 5

♦ K J 10 2

♣ 6 4

- Excellent distribution for a weak-two bid.
- 6-4-2-1
- Some would use this good distribution and open 3♥

# Final Thought

- Preempting effectively is not as simple as looking at your hand and seeing a long suit.
- You must think about distribution
- And vulnerability.
- In other words, making good judgments.