

Pre-emptive Bids

Pre-emptive Opening Bids/Overcalls are designed to take up the bidding space of the opponents

Once you have made a pre-emptive bid you rarely bid again (exceptions: see below)

2 level openings	2 ♦ 2 ♥ 2 ♠	shows 6-11 and a good 6-card suit
3 level openings	3 ♣ 3 ♦ 3 ♥ 3 ♠	shows 6-11 and a good 7-card suit
game level openings	5 ♣ 5 ♦ 4 ♥ 4 ♠	shows 6-11 and a good 8-card suit

Opening/Overcalling 2♦/2♥/2♠

- 6 – 11
- 6-card suit (preferably with 2 honours)

Responses

- | | |
|------------|---|
| • Pass | 0 – 15 |
| • 2NT | 16 + Asks quality of hand – FORCING* |
| • 3♦/3♥/3♠ | pre-emptive |
| • New suit | Opener/Overcaller must PASS |
| • 3NT | Opener/Overcaller must PASS |
| • 4 ♣ | Gerber Ace Ask - FORCING |
| • 5♦/4♥/4♠ | pre-emptive |

Note: Forcing means that Partner **must** bid again

* 2 NT is another **convention**, which asks about the points and the quality of the suit. For simplification, respond:

- At the 3 level with 6 – 8
- At game level with 9 - 11

Opening/Overcalling 3♣/3♦/3♥/3♠

- 6 – 11
- 7-card suit (preferably with 2 honours)

Responses

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| • Pass | 0 – 15 |
| • New suit | Opener/Overcaller must PASS |
| • 4 ♣ | Gerber Ace Ask – forcing |
| • 3NT | Opener/Overcaller must PASS |
| • 5♣/5♦/4♥/4♠ | pre-emptive |

Opening 5♣/5♦/4♥/4♠

- 6 – 11
- 8-card suit (preferably with 2 honours)

Lesson 6

Some Bridge Writers state that you should not pre-empt if

- If partner has not already called
- If you also have a 4-card major
- If you have a void

At this stage of your bridge learning you should ignore this advice

Examples

♠ KJ108742	♠ 76	♠ K6	♠ 86	♠ 9
♥ 4	♥ AKQ954	♥ J109643	♥ AKJ108543	♥ K3
♦ AJ4	♦ K8	♦ Q85	♦ 64	♦ KQJ9542
♣ Q2	♣ 86	♣ K3	♣ 2	♣ 10876
Open 2 ♠	Open 1 ♥	Pass (poor suit)	Open 4 ♥	Open 3 ♦

Weak Responses

Normally, if you have a 6 + card suit and at least 6 points, you show this by bidding at the cheapest level, and then repeating the suit again at the cheapest next level

A **jump response** is used to show 0 – 5 points and a 6 + card suit. Opener is expected to **PASS**

Example: partner opens 1 ♥ and you hold

♠ Q108742 ♥ 104 ♦ 973 ♣ Q2 you would jump to 2 ♠

Examples of Weak Jump Overcalls

♠ 876	♠ 984	♠ AQ10764	♠ 7432
♥ 82	♥ 4	♥ 32	♥ KQ10982
♦ 8	♦ KQ10873	♦ 4	♦ -
♣ AKQ986	♣ A84	♣ K953	♣ A85
1 ♥ 3 ♣	1 ♠ 3 ♦	1 ♦ - 1 ♥ 2 ♠	1 ♦ 2 ♥

Examples of Weak Jump Responses

♠ 95	♠ AJ8762	♠ 76	♠ 63
♥ 1065	♥ 73	♥ 94	♥ QJ10982
♦ KQ8642	♦ 843	♦ 973	♦ 82
♣ 10	♣ 86	♣ KQ9854	♣ Q94
1 ♠ - 3 ♦	1 ♥ - 2 ♠	1 ♠ - 3 ♣	1 ♦ - 2 ♥