

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 4
♥ A 10 9 6 5
♦ 3 2
♣ K 10 6

14
9 11
6

West

Pass
3 ♦ by South

♠ A 8 7
♥ K Q 8 7 3
♦ J
♣ A 9 5 4



♠ 9 5 2
♥ 2
♦ A Q 10 9 8 7 5
♣ 8 7

North

Pass

East

Pass

South

3 ♦

You dealt this hand. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

You estimate you can win 6 ♦ tricks so you open 3 ♦. Everybody passes.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 5 3
♥ Q 4 2
♦ A Q 8 7 4
♣ J 9 5

13
9 12
6

West

Pass
3 ♠ by South

♠ 9 2
♥ K J 8 5
♦ K J 9
♣ K Q 8 3



♠ K Q J 10 8 6 4
♥ 9 7
♦ 6 5
♣ 10 4

North

Pass

East

Pass

South

3 ♠

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

You have 13 points and if partner had opened with a 1 ♠ bid you'd be feeling "jumpy". But what a preemptive bidder needs from dummy are immediate winners, not points. So you pass.

Here's a pretty good tip: When partner opens with a 3-bid and you are trying to decide whether to take him to game, visualize him holding this very hand: K Q J T x x x of trumps and nothing in any other suit. Then base your decision on that.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 5 2
♥ K 9
♦ 10 6 3
♣ J 9 8 3

12
9 12
7

West

Pass
Pass

4 ♥ by South

♠ J 9 8 7 3

♥ A 4 2

♦ 8 2

♣ A K 7



♠ A

♥ Q J 10 8 7 6 3

♦ 9 7 5

♣ 6 2

North

4 ♥

East

Pass

South

3 ♥

Pass

You dealt this hand. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

You expect your hand to produce 5 ♥ tricks and the ♠A. So you open 3 ♥. Partner responds 4 ♥. What do you bid?

When you preempted 3 ♥ you described your hand perfectly. You have nothing more to say except pass.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 9 5

♥ —

♦ A K Q J 10 5

♣ 6 3 2

12
13 10
5

♠ A K 7 6

♥ J 5 3

♦ 9 4

♣ A 8 7 4

N
W E
S

♠ 8 3

♥ K Q 10 8 7 4 2

♦ 8 6 2

♣ 5

♠ 10 4 2

♥ A 9 6

♦ 7 3

♣ K Q J 10 9

West

North

East

South

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

3 ♥

Pass

4 ♥ by South

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

No matter how much we try to reduce bridge to rules and guidelines we will never get rid of the judgement factor. With this hand you definitely have 3 fast tricks for partner. In theory he can take 6 of his own, so 3 ♥ should be the right contract. BUT, maybe he could ruff a ♦ in your dummy?

Fortune favors the bold so you bid 4 ♥ . . . and live happily ever after.

Deal 5

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6 3

♥ K 10 4 2

♦ Q 7

♣ A Q 10 9

7
15 12
6

West

Pass

4 ♠ by South

♠ 10 4

♥ Q 8 6

♦ A 9 6 3

♣ J 6 4 2



♠ K Q J 9 8 7 5 2

♥ 9

♦ 5 2

♣ 8 7

North

Pass

East

Pass

South

4 ♠

You dealt this hand. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

With 7 estimated winners and an 8-card suit you preempt 4 ♠. And you are not going to make it. In fact you are only going to make 8 tricks so you will go down 2.

You may be wishing that you had opened just 3 ♠, rather than following the guidelines and opening at the 4-level. The problem with that thinking is that the lower your preempt, the less difficult it is for the opponent's to enter the bidding. If you had opened 3 ♠ West might have been able to make a Takeout Double and they could have found their ♥ fit. Just visualize their combined hands; they have

9 ♥s between them, they have no ♠ losers, no ♣ losers and just one ♦ loser. If they decide to finesse your partner for the ♥ Q they can make slam.

This is what preempting is all about.

Deal 6

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 2
♥ 10 7 4 2
♦ J 7 6 5
♣ K J 3 2

20
5 9
6

West

Pass
6 ♠ by South

♠ 10 6
♥ A K Q 8 5
♦ A K
♣ A 8 6 4



♠ K Q J 9 8 7 3
♥ 6
♦ 9 8 4 2
♣ 7

North

6 ♠

East

Pass

South

3 ♠
Pass

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

If is hard to imagine any hand partner could have where the slam wouldn't be there. Maybe you should use Blackwood, just to be sure? If partner shows 1 Ace you would then bid 6 ♠. And if he shows no Aces you would then . . . bid 6 ♠ anyway. So you leave out the middle step and bid 6 ♠.

Did you think about bidding 6 NT instead? Ugh, they would have led a ♣.

Deal 7

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 5

♥ K Q 10 8 7 6 3

♦ 8 2

♣ 10 9

20
5 8
7

West

3 ♥

Pass

3 ♠ by South

♠ A J 4 2

♥ J

♦ K Q 9 6

♣ A K Q 6

♠ K 10 3

♥ A 9 4 2

♦ 7 5 3

♣ 7 4 2

North

Dbl

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 ♠



You dealt this hand. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

You make a simple 3 ♥ opening bid and then the fireworks start. North doubles, your partner passes and South bids 3 ♠.

Do not preempt the same hand twice. The idea of a preemptive bid is that you bid it's maximum at your first turn. If there is to any further competing on this hand partner will have to do it.

Deal 8

South Deals ♠ 8 6 3 2
 None Vul ♥ K 8
 ♦ A 9 6 4
 ♣ A 7 3

♠ K Q J 10 9 5		♠ A 7
♥ A Q J		♥ 10 9 7 4 3
♦ 5		♦ 2
♣ 10 6 2		♣ K Q J 9 4

	♠ 4	
	♥ 6 5 2	
	♦ K Q J 10 8 7 3	
	♣ 8 5	

	11	
13	10	
6		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
3 ♠	4 ♦	Pass	3 ♦
Pass			Pass
4 ♦ by South			

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

You do not have the 4 fast winners you need to raise partner to the 4-level. But you do have 4 of his trumps and 2 and a half winners. And your side doesn't have much defense against a 3 ♠ contract. You should raise partner to 4 ♦ because you think they can make 3 ♠. With these hands it appears they might have gone to 4 ♠ in which case you would have had to decide whether to continue to 5 ♦. More judgement would be called for, based on Vulnerability, whether you think they can make the game, etc. The Law of Total Tricks can be a help in these competitive situations; it would lead you to 5 ♦.

Deal 9

West Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 5
♥ 6
♦ A Q 10 8 7 6 3
♣ 10 9 5

10
6 8
16

West

3 ♦

Pass

4 ♥ by South

♠ Q 10 7 2
♥ K 10 5 3 2
♦ K 5
♣ Q 8



♠ K J 6 4 3
♥ A Q J 9
♦ —
♣ A J 7 4

North

Dbl

Pass

East

4 ♦

Pass

South

4 ♥

You dealt this hand. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

You open 3 ♦. North doubles, partner raises to 4 ♦, and South bids 4 ♥. What do you say?

You just pass. Partner's raise was probably just advancing your preempt and they got to 4 ♥ anyway. Sometimes preempts don't do the full job.

It is partner's decision, not yours, whether to continue to 5 ♦ as a sacrifice.

Deal 10

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 10 2

♥ 10 7 6 5

♦ A Q

♣ 7 4 2

10

12 11

7

West

Pass

3 ♥ by South

♠ 9 6 4

♥ —

♦ 8 5 4 2

♣ A K Q J 8 3



♠ 8 5 3

♥ A Q J 9 8 4 3

♦ 10 7 6

♣ —

North

Pass

East

Pass

South

3 ♥

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

The guidelines in the summary would have you bid 4 ♥. After all you very clearly have four quick winners.

But you also have seven quick losers in the other suits, and a trump void to boot.

Somewhere in some of these lessons there should be a guideline that says:

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Deal 11

East Deals

None Vul

♠ Q 5

♥ A J 8 3

♦ Q 7 6 5

♣ K Q 2

♠ 4 2

♥ 9 7 2

♦ A K 10 3 2

♣ J 8 6



♠ J 9

♥ K Q 10 5 4

♦ J 9

♣ A 7 4 3

♠ A K 10 8 7 6 3

♥ 6

♦ 8 4

♣ 10 9 5

14
8 11
7

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

3 ♠

3 ♠ by South

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

The fact that East opened doesn't change your hand at all. You had planned on Opening 3 ♠, now you make a Weak Jump Overcall of 3 ♠. If partner has some "stuff" you might get to a makeable contract, and if he doesn't you may keep the opponents out of a ♥ game.

This time everybody passes.

Deal 12

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A K 7 2

♥ Q 7

♦ A 5 4 2

♣ A 9 5

♠ J 10 8 6 5 3

♥ 5 3

♦ Q J 3

♣ J 10



♠ 9 4

♥ A 8

♦ K 9 7 6

♣ K Q 8 3 2

♠ Q

♥ K J 10 9 6 4 2

♦ 10 8

♣ 7 6 4

17
5 12
6

*West**North**East**South*

Pass

4 ♥

1 ♣

Pass

3 ♥

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

The bidding has been as shown. Decide what you would bid, then on BID above.

You have four quick winners. If partner had opened 3 ♥ you would have bid 4 ♥ in the blink of an eye. His Weak Jump Overcall describes the exact same hand. So blink and bid 4 ♥.