



Preemptive Bids Mini-Lesson

Board 1											
North Deals	♠ K J 9 8 7 6										
None Vul	♥ J 8										
	♦ Q 9 6 3										
	♣ 5										
	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠ 10 4</td><td>♠ A 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ Q 7 6 3</td><td>♥ A K 10 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ J 10 7</td><td>♦ K 8 5 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ A J 10 9</td><td>♣ K Q 8</td></tr> </table>	♠ 10 4	♠ A 5	♥ Q 7 6 3	♥ A K 10 5	♦ J 10 7	♦ K 8 5 2	♣ A J 10 9	♣ K Q 8		
♠ 10 4	♠ A 5										
♥ Q 7 6 3	♥ A K 10 5										
♦ J 10 7	♦ K 8 5 2										
♣ A J 10 9	♣ K Q 8										
	♠ Q 3 2										
	♥ 9 4 2										
	♦ A 4										
	♣ 7 6 4 3 2										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
	2 ♠	Dbl	3 ♠								
?											


Notes: After the 2S opening and South's raise (with a weak hand – to further the preempt), West is in a tough place. They have 8 points, so they probably should bid. But what? If their partnership allowed a double (negative) to indicate support for the other 3 suits, they might make it to 4H (which makes 10 or 11 tricks). Or they might mis-judge and allow N/S to play (making 8 tricks for a penalty of 50 points). Success!

Board 2											
North Deals	♠ 9 4										
None Vul	♥ K 8 7										
	♦ Q 7 6 5										
	♣ J 8 7 5										
	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠ K Q 2</td><td>♠ A J 10 8 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ Q</td><td>♥ 10 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ A 9 8</td><td>♦ K 4 3 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ A K 10 6 4 3</td><td>♣ Q 9</td></tr> </table>	♠ K Q 2	♠ A J 10 8 7	♥ Q	♥ 10 5	♦ A 9 8	♦ K 4 3 2	♣ A K 10 6 4 3	♣ Q 9		
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	♥ A J 9 6 4 3 2										
	♦ J 10										
	♣ 2										
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>								
	Pass	Pass	3 ♥								
?											

Notes: South's 3H preemptive bid puts West in a tough place. Do they double for takeout (if that is their partnership agreement)? What if East has only 4 spades but they end at a 4S bid? Or do they just bid 4C and take a part-score? You can see the quandary that preemptive bids cause.

Board 3
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ A Q 10 5
 ♥ K 2
 ♦ A Q J 7 5
 ♣ K 5

♠ 9 8 7 3		♠ 2
♥ J 8		♥ A Q 10 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 6		♦ K 10 4
♣ A 7 6 4		♣ 3

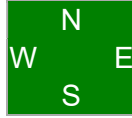
♠ K J 6 4
 ♥ 9
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ Q J 10 9 8 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1♦	4♥	?

Notes: If your partnership agrees that jump overcalls (jump bids after the opponents open the bidding) are weak (so-called “weak jump overcalls”), then the 4H bid has the same meaning as if it were the opening bid – weak hand, 8-card heart suit headed by the KJ or better. South is now stuck. Again, if their partnership treats a double at the 4-level a try for “takeout”, that is the best bid. Otherwise, how do they get to the makeable 4S game? If they try 5C (bold), they’ll be set one trick with accurate play.

Board 4
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ K J 6 5
 ♥ 10
 ♦ K J 7 6 5 4 3
 ♣ 6

♠ 10 9 3		♠ 4
♥ 9 4 3 2		♥ A K J 8
♦ 10		♦ Q 9 2
♣ 9 8 7 5 2		♣ A Q J 10 4

♠ A Q 8 7 2
 ♥ Q 7 6 5
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ K 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			?

Notes: Should North open 3D as a preempt? Different people would disagree, but I say “no”. North has reasonable high cards in two suits (spades and diamonds). The spade suit (a major suit) in particular indicates that “pass” is better than 3D; South may have enough spades to compete if given the chance. Remember, a preemptive bid preempts not only your opponents but also your partner. In this case, after North’s pass and East’s 1C, South bids 1S. Even if West (with no points) raised to 2C, North reevaluates their hand (8 high-card points plus 3 points each for the two singletons) and raises to 3S (or even 4S!). If 3S, South raises to 4S. If N/S set up the long diamond suit, they should take at least 10 tricks.