

MODULE 11: STUDENT NOTES

Pre-emptive Opening Bids

A pre-emptive opening is an **obstructive** opening bid. It is designed to make it hard for the opposition to enter the auction and bid their hands accurately.

Once you open with a pre-empt you will **rarely bid again** – partner chooses the final contract.

2-level openings (except 2♣)	show 6-10 and a good 6-card suit
3-level openings	show 6-10 and a good 7-card suit
4-level openings	show 6-10 and a good 8-card suit

*Tip: For those who have learnt about **vulnerability** effect on your score – note you should be more cautious bidding pre-empts, when you are vulnerable.*

Opening 2♦ 2♥ or 2♠ (often referred to as a Weak 2)

- 6-10 high card points
- Good 6-card suit (with 2+ honours)

Responses

Pass	0-13	any shape
3♦ 3♥ 3♠	14-15	2+ card support
Raise to Game	16+	2+ card support or any HCP & 4+ support
New Suit	17+	Good 6-card suit – forcing (rarely used bid)

Opening 3♣ 3♦ 3♥ 3♠ (often referred to simply as a “pre-empt”)

- 6-10
- 7-card suit (with 2+ honours)

Responses

- Pass 0-13 any shape
- Raise Game in Major 16+ 1+ card support or **any HCP & 3+ support** (4♥ or 4♠)
- New suit at 3-level 17+ Good 6+-card suit – (**rarely** used bid)

Opening at the Four-Level or Higher (e.g. 4♥ 4♠ – often an 8-card pre-empt)

- 6-10
- 8-card suit (2+ honours)

Responses

You have reached game - no need to bid on!

Examples:

♠ KJ107543	♠ 2	♠ J2	♠ KQJ9843	♠ 4	♠ AQJ108742
♥ AJ3	♥ AQ8762	♥ A73	♥ 43	♥ J62	♥ 43
♦ K8	♦ 962	♦ J98542	♦ 742	♦ 54	♦ 74
♣ 7	♣ K72	♣ KJ4	♣ 9	♣ AQJ8763	♣ 9
Open 1♠	Open 2♥	Pass (poor suit)	Open 3♠	Open 3♣	Open 4♠

*Tip: Defence vs pre-empts: If the opponents bid with a pre-empt before your turn to call, consider bidding an overcall with an opening hand (12+) and a good suit with 2+ honours. With 3+ support for the unbid suits and a good opening hand (14+), you can **double for takeout** at the 2-level, 3-level or up to 4♥. Normally you have 4+ in unbid Major suit(s).*

Module 11 Quiz

Pre-emptive Openings

1. What would you open with these hands?

(Tip: If you learnt about vulnerability assume both sides are **not** vulnerable)

(a) ♠ AQJ9543 ♥ 983 ♦ J8 ♣ 7	(b) ♠ J4 ♥ KQJ876 ♦ 54 ♣ J54	(c) ♠ 52 ♥ Q98762 ♦ K96 ♣ K7	(d) ♠ KQJ987632 ♥ 4 ♦ 42 ♣ K6	(e) ♠ AQ2 ♥ 43 ♦ AJ98743 ♣ 9
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2. Partner opens 2♥ - what do you respond?

(a) ♠ AQ2 ♥ K62 ♦ QJ632 ♣ A7	(b) ♠ AQ52 ♥ 2 ♦ A654 ♣ KJ32	(c) ♠ A4 ♥ Q63 ♦ A10852 ♣ KQ7	(d) ♠ AKJ752 ♥ 2 ♦ AJ85 ♣ A7	(e) ♠ AK2 ♥ 9862 ♦ AQ852 ♣ 9
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3. Partner opens 3♦ - what do you respond?

(a) ♠ A85 ♥ A862 ♦ 3 ♣ A10852	(b) ♠ KQJ875 ♥ KQ8 ♦ 54 ♣ AK	(c) ♠ 7 ♥ AK62 ♦ 1087 ♣ AKJ52	(d) ♠ KQ2 ♥ AQ98 ♦ K9 ♣ AJ98	(e) ♠ QJ9 ♥ KQ10962 ♦ - ♣ KJ52
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