

Preemptive Openings and Overcalls

What is a preemptive hand?

- 6+ card suit
- 5-11 HCP
- No more than one A or K outside of your suit.
- Example: ♠KQJ987 ♥4 ♦764 ♣K54

What do you bid?

- Can be an opening bid or a jump overcall after the opponent's open (Ex. 1C by opponent and then you jump overcall 2S)
- Open or jump overcall 2D, 2H or 2S with a six card suit. Never open 2C, that is reserved for our 21+ HCP strong hands.
- Open or jump overcall 3C, 3D, 3H, 3S with seven card suits

Why preempt?

- Makes it harder for opponents to find the best contract.
- Immediately gives partner a good picture of your hand.
- Suggestive of a possible sacrifice against opponent's game.

Watch the vulnerability!

- When you are vulnerable the penalties for failing to make your contract are much higher. A vulnerable Weak Two should promise a stronger suit and more playing strength:

♠KQJ987 ♥4 ♦764 ♣K54 or ♠73 ♥4 ♦AQJ1084 ♣J1085

- If you're not vulnerable, you can open a Weak Two with very light hands:

♠K109654 ♥43 ♦753 ♣K5 or ♠432 ♥AQ9875 ♦753 ♣5

Preemptive Openings and Overcalls Worksheet

What would you bid with these hands?

Opponent's Opening Bid	Your Hand	Vulnerability	Your Bid
None	1. ♠KQJ872, ♥2, ♦K982, ♣96	Vul	
None	2. ♠KJ7432, ♥82, ♦Q82, ♣96	Vul	
None	3. ♠KJ7432, ♥82, ♦Q82, ♣96	Non-Vul	
None	4. ♠KJ98532, ♥9, ♦K53, ♣95	Vul	
None	5. ♠KJ9852, ♥92, ♦K53, ♣A5	Vul	
None	6. ♠KJ9532, ♥KQJ62, ♦5, ♣8	Non-Vul	
1♣	7. ♠92, ♥8, ♦AQJ1053, ♣9752	Non-Vul	
1♥	8. ♠92, ♥8, ♦AQJ1053, ♣9752	Non-Vul	
1♠	9. ♠3, ♥KQJ10743, ♦Q82, ♣76	Vul	
1♣	10. ♠AJ2, ♥KQJ943, ♦952, ♣5	Vul	

