

# Beginners' Lesson 11: Pre-emptive Openings

**Board 1**  
 North Deals  
 None Vul

♠ 10 3  
 ♥ A 10 7 4  
 ♦ Q 6  
 ♣ 8 7 6 5 4

♠ A K Q 9 6 2  
 ♥ J 8 2  
 ♦ J 5  
 ♣ A 2

♠ J 7  
 ♥ K Q 9 6  
 ♦ 10 9 7  
 ♣ Q J 10 9

♠ 8 5 4  
 ♥ 5 3  
 ♦ A K 8 4 3 2  
 ♣ K 3

West North East South  
 2 ♠ Pass Pass 2 ♦

Lead: ♦ Q

West has a good suit to overcall. North is not strong enough to bid and East's hand is not suitable to raise.

The weak 2 ♦ opener made it hard for EW to reach 4 ♠.

The ♦ Q lead is the top of partner's suit

Declarer draws trumps, plays on hearts, then clubs.

**Board 2**  
 East Deals  
 N-S Vul

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

♠ —  
 ♥ K Q 6  
 ♦ 8 5 4 3 2  
 ♣ K 9 6 5 2

♠ J  
 ♥ J 10 7  
 ♦ 10 9 7  
 ♣ A J 10 8 7 3

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

West North East South  
 Pass 4 ♠ All pass 3 ♠

Lead: ♥ K

Whilst East has a weak long suit, they can't open 2 ♣, so passes. South pre-empts 3 ♠ and North raises to 4 ♠.

The ♥ K lead is the top of a sequence.

Declarer should draw the trump then play diamonds (♦ K first) to discard a small heart or club.

**Board 3**  
 South Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

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

♠ A 8 6 5  
 ♥ 10 5 3  
 ♦ A 7 6 5 3  
 ♣ 3

♠ 10  
 ♥ K Q 9 7  
 ♦ Q J 10  
 ♣ K 9 7 4 2

West North East South  
 2 ♠ Dbl 4 ♠ All pass

Lead: ♦ 8

North double promises a good opening hand. East should bid 4 ♠ with 4 trumps. South has a difficult decision to make now and will probably pass. 4 ♠ is one down which is a good result as NS can make 5 ♥.

Lead is ♦ 8.

South draws trumps and ruffs 2 clubs in dummy.

**Board 4**  
 West Deals  
 Both Vul

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

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

♠ A 10 8 5 2  
 ♥ A 6 5 2  
 ♦ K 9  
 ♣ 9 6

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

West North East South  
 Pass 3 ♦ All pass

Lead: ♣ 9

North opens 3 ♦ showing a weak 7 card suit. South must not be tempted to bid, as their hand is not good enough..

Lead is ♣ 9 - top of a doubleton.

North should play a heart towards dummy, then take a trump finesse

**Board 5**  
 North Deals  
 N-S Vul

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

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

♠ A Q 8  
 ♥ A 7  
 ♦ A Q 7 5 4  
 ♣ K Q 9

♠ —  
 ♥ Q 5 2  
 ♦ J 10 9 6 3  
 ♣ J 10 6 4 2

West North East South  
 3 ♠ 3 NT All pass

Lead: ♦ J

North's 3 ♠ bid shows 7 cards and a weak hand.

East should not be put off by the 3 ♠ opening and bid 3 NT with a good spade hold and a strong hand.

The ♦ J lead is the top of a sequence.

Declarer should play ♥ A then a heart to the ♥ J

**Board 6**  
 East Deals  
 E-W Vul

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

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

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

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

West North East South  
 All pass 4 ♥ All pass

Lead: ♠ A

East opens 4 ♥ which shows an 8-card suit and a weak hand.

This pre-empt makes it difficult for NS to reach 4 ♠.

The lead of the ♠ A is promising the ♠ K.

Declarer should draw trumps and lead up to ♣ K

**Board 7**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

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

♠ 9 7 5 4  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ A J 9 7 5  
 ♣ A Q 5

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

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

West North East South  
 Pass 4 ♥ All pass 3 ♥

Lead: ♠ 7

North's raise to game is solely based on the 4-card trump support. EW can make 4 ♠ but will probably find it too difficult to bid.

DO NOT lead a small spade which would promise an honour

Declarer can make 8 tricks. EW could have made game in spades.

**Board 8**  
 West Deals  
 None Vul

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

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

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

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

West North East South  
 Pass 2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥

South bids to game with 16 HCP and a fit in hearts

Lead ♠ 2 which is small from their longest and strongest.

Declarer draws trumps then plays towards the diamond honours in Dummy.