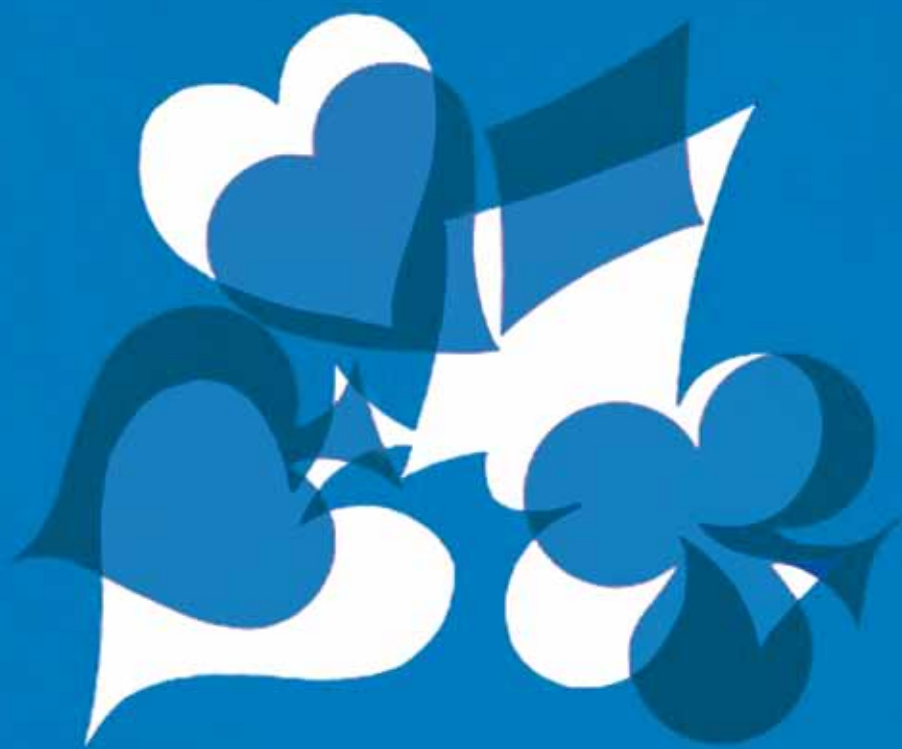


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

PREEMPTIVE BIDDING

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Preemptive Bidding

Preemptive Bidding

A Preemptive Bid (preempt) can be an opening bid or an overcall. If you choose to preempt:

- You deny an opening hand,
- Promise a very good suit (7+ cards), and
- In most cases, you will have no trick (an Ace or King) in another suit.

If the pre-emptive bid is an opening bid it can be made at the three or four level and can be made in any suit.

- A bid at the three-level shows a seven-card suit with two of the top three honors, no trick (Ace or King) in another suit and less than an opening hand.
- A bid at the four-level shows an eight-card suit with two of the top three honors, no trick (Ace or King) in another suit and less than an opening hand.

If the preemptive bid is an overcall it must be a jump. It can be made at the two-, three- or four-level and can be made in any suit. A preemptive jump overcall is the only instance in which you are allowed to bid a preempt with a six-card suit (with the exception of

opening clubs at the three-level, as you cannot open a weak two-club bid).

- A bid at the two-level shows a six-card suit with two of the top three honors, no trick (Ace or King) in another suit and less than an opening hand.
- A bid at the three-level shows a seven-card suit with two of the top three honors, no trick (Ace or King) in another suit and less than an opening hand.
- A bid at the four-level shows an eight-card suit with two of the top three honors, no trick (Ace or King) in another suit and less than an opening hand.

You are allowed to deviate from the requirement of two of the top three honors when your partner is a passed hand and you feel that your strategic gain outweighs the risk of bidding on a weaker suit, however you should never open or overcall a preempt with a suit that has less than three of the top five honors.

Some examples of a preemptive suit:

1) ♠AK98754 ♥82 ♦3 ♣642

2) ♠854 ♥82 ♦3 ♣AQJ9642

3) ♠4 ♥82 ♦AKJ9843 ♣J42

4) ♠854 ♥AQ1098542 ♦3 ♣2

Once a preemptive bid is made, the preempter will not bid again unless forced to by partner (described below). Responder to the preempter is in charge of the auction as responder knows what hand the preempter holds and, usually, knows where their partnership is headed.

There is a tremendous value created when you and partner have discovered a good, long fit. The value is twofold:

- The ability for you to interfere in the opponent's auction and keep them, in some cases, from finding a fit, a game, their best game or maybe even a slam.
- The knowledge these bids give responder allow him to decide when it is best to take the contract away from the opponents...even when he knows you are going down....instead of letting them score the game (or slam) bonus they are due.

One of the most important things to remember as responder is that finding game is not the only (and not the most important) facet of preemptive bidding.

If responder has a good fit (3+ cards) for partner's suit, regardless of his points, in most cases he should raise partner. Remember if you and partner have 10 or more cards in a suit the opponents have only three

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Preemptive Bidding

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the Preemptive Bidding convention.



PATTY TUCKER (Dunwoody, Georgia) is an ABTA Master Bridge Teacher and cofounder of Whirlwind Bridge and Atlanta Junior Bridge. Her success at the bridge table culminated in her victory in the 2000 Baldwin Flight A North American Open Pairs with long-time bridge partner Kevin Collins. Patty and Kevin were married in 2006.