

# Beginners' Lesson 9: 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	All pass		

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 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 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 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Lead: ♥ K		All pass	

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 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
		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 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 ♠	Pass
Lead: ♦ 8			All pass

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.

West draws trumps and ruffs 2 clubs in dummy.

**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 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 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 ♥
All pass			

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.