

Intermediate Lesson 10: Defence to Pre-emptive Openers

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 8 3
 ♥ K Q J 9 7 6
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ Q 9 4

♠ A Q 7 2
 ♥ A 8 4
 ♦ 9 5 4
 ♣ A 6 3

♠ K 4
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K Q J 6 3
 ♣ K 8 7 5 2

♠ J 10 9 6 5
 ♥ 10 3 2
 ♦ A 8 7
 ♣ J 10

West	North	East	South
3 NT	2♥	3♦	Pass
	All pass		

East cannot bid 2 NT despite having 5/5 in the minors as that bid shows 16-18 balanced.

Therefore, East calls their higher ranked suit. West will bid 3 NT to play.

This contract will make as long as declarer ducks the first 2 rounds of hearts before knocking out ♦ A.

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ Q 8 7 3
 ♥ A J 7 6
 ♦ J 9 4 3
 ♣ 7

♠ J 6
 ♥ K 10 8 5
 ♦ K 5 2
 ♣ A 8 5 4

♠ 2
 ♥ 4 3
 ♦ 8 7 6
 ♣ K Q J 10 6 3 2

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

West	North	East	South
5♣	Pass	3♣	3♠
	5♠	All pass	

The vulnerability is right for West to jump to 5♣ following their partner's pre-empt. Playing Teams, North should double 5♣ and collect +500, down three.

Playing Pairs, the decision is harder for North. This time, they are rewarded for bidding 5♠.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ 9 6 5 3
 ♥ A J 8 4
 ♦ Q J 6
 ♣ 10 4

♠ J 2
 ♥ 10 6 2
 ♦ K 8 5
 ♣ A K 9 7 2

♠ K Q 10 8 7 4
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ 3 2
 ♣ J 8 5

♠ A
 ♥ K Q 7 3
 ♦ A 10 9 7 4
 ♣ Q 6 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♥	2♠	Dbl
All pass		Pass	4♥

North's 3♥ is natural and shows 7-10 HCP. With fewer points they would bid 2 NT (Lebensohl).

South, therefore, can raise to game knowing their partner has values. There should be 10 tricks after any lead, 5 trumps, 4 diamonds and ♠ A.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 6
 ♥ A K J 10 4
 ♦ K 5
 ♣ K Q 9 8 5

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

♠ K 4
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ A 9 8 3
 ♣ J 6 4 3 2

♠ 7 5
 ♥ Q 9 6 5
 ♦ 10 7 6 2
 ♣ A 7

West	North	East	South
4♠	4 NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♥	All pass	

North's 4 NT is take-out with a strong two or three suited hand. South initially chooses between the minor suits though will be happy when North's second bid shows hearts and clubs.

Had South held 4 clubs (even with 5 diamonds), they should bid 5♣ not 5♦ as they know North has one minor suit but may not have both. 5♥ should make comfortably.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 8 7
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ K Q J 8 7 6 3
 ♣ K 4

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

♠ A J 6 3
 ♥ K 7 5
 ♦ 9
 ♣ A Q 10 9 3

♠ Q 4 2
 ♥ J 10 8 2
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ 8 7 6 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♦	Dbl	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	All pass

After East's take-out double of the 3♦ pre-empt, West is strong enough to bid to game. It is possible, however, that East does not have 4 cards in each major. Therefore, by bidding 4♦, East can choose which major should be trumps. East chooses spades and the 4/4 fit is found.

Were West to guess on the trump suit, they may have chosen hearts, with 4♥ being a more difficult contract to make.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A K 9 8 5
 ♥ 10 6
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A Q J 6 5

♠ 10 6 2
 ♥ A K 7 5 3 2
 ♦ Q 9 8
 ♣ 2

♠ Q J 7 3
 ♥ Q 4
 ♦ A J 6 5
 ♣ 7 4 3

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

West	North	East	South
2♥	3♥	Pass	4♣
All pass			

North bids 3♥ to show an opening hand with at least 5 spades and a 5+ card minor.

South has no game ambitions and wants to play in their partner's minor suit at the 4 level. Hence, 4♣ asks North to pass or bid 4♦. South should be able to make 10 tricks in clubs.

Board 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 5 2
 ♥ A 9 4
 ♦ J 8 7 4
 ♣ J 6 3 2

♠ 8 7 6 4
 ♥ 2
 ♦ A 10 9 3
 ♣ K 10 9 7

♠ Q J 3
 ♥ K Q J 10 8 7 6 3
 ♦ 2
 ♣ 4

♠ A K 10 9
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K Q 6 5
 ♣ A Q 8 5

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	4♥	Dbl
All pass			

After the 4♥ opening, South makes a take-out double. North has no desire to bid either of their suits at the 5 level. North, therefore, passes, converting the take-out double to a penalty double.

The defence should score +500 for beating this contract by 2 tricks, an excellent result as North-South cannot make any game.

Board 8
 West Deals
 None Vul

♠ K 3
 ♥ 6 4
 ♦ A Q 10 9 7 6 3
 ♣ 4 2

♠ J 7 6
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K 8 5
 ♣ Q 10 8 6 5 3

♠ A Q 10 5 4
 ♥ A K Q 9 8
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K 9

♠ 9 8 2
 ♥ J 10 7 3 2
 ♦ J 4
 ♣ A J 7

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♦	4♦	Pass
4♠	All pass		

With two five card majors, and a strong hand, East should bid the opener's suit at the 4 level.

Were East to double, West would bid 4♣ even 5♣. East's 4♦ bid asks West to choose a major at the game level.