

Pre-emptive Raises and Cue Bids

Responding to partner's opening bid or overcall when there is interference from opponent

Your responses to partner's opening bid or overcall are different when the opponents are also bidding. Now pre-emptive bids and cue bids are used to describe your hand.

A pre-emptive bid would normally show less than a free bid (6 pts). In other words, 5 points or fewer AND extra length (4+ for majors and 5+ for minors).

A cue bid is a valuable tool used to describe a limit raise or better. (good 9 pts + at a minimum). You could even have a full opening hand and use the cue bid.

So, used in combination with just a simple raise (6 pts - to bad 9 pts), a pre-emptive raise (5 pts or less and extra length), and cue bids (limit raise or better - good 9 pts +) you are now equipped to accurately describe your hand to partner.

Example 1

Your partner opens 1 Heart, your RHO (right hand opponent) bids 2 Clubs. Your options:

x x x	x x x	x x x
K x x	K Q x x	K J x x
Q 10 x x	Q 10 x x	10 9 x x x
K x x	A x	x
8 Pts	11 Pts	4 Pts
Bid 2 Hearts	Bid 3 Clubs	Bid 3 Hearts
Simple Raise	Cue Bid	Pre-emptive

CUE BID WITH GOOD HANDS AND JUMP WITH BAD HANDS!!

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Example 2

Your partner opens 1 Spade and your RHO opponent bids 3 Diamonds. Your options:

K x x Q J x x x x x Q x x	K J 10 x x A x x x x x x x	Q J 10 A J 10 x x Q J 10 x x	A J x A K Q x x x K x x x
8 Pts Bid 3 Spades Simple Raise	8 Pts Bid 4 Spades Didn't Cue Bid NOT Opening Hand	11 Pts Bid 4 Diamonds Limit or Better Cue Bid	17 Pts Bid 4 Diamonds Over 4 Sp by partner - bid 4NT

Example 3

Your partner opens 1 Spade and your RHO opponent bids 2 Hearts. Your options:

Q x x x x K x x x x J 10 x	Q J x x x A Q x x x Q x x	Q J x x x J 10 x x x x x x
6 Pts Bid 2 Spades Simple Raise	11 Pts Bid 3 Hearts Cue Bid	4 Pts Bid 3 Spades Preemptive

Example 4

Your partner opens 1 Diamond and your RHO opponent Doubles. Your Options.

x x	A x	x x x
A x x	x x	x
Q x x x x	K x x x x	A J x x x
x x x	K J x x	x x x x
6 Pts	11 Pts	5 Pts
Bid 2 Diamonds	REDOUBLE	Bid 3 Diamonds
Simple Raise	Shows 10+ Pts	Pre-emptive

The Redouble is your only option on the second hand.
The Redouble at this point only tells partner that you have at least 10 points. It says nothing about Diamonds.
Your next bid will clarify your limit raise in Diamonds.



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