

Pre-empting 7+ Long Suits



You are going to swim the 500 miles to the mainland
Just so you can play Bridge?
Try to remember to send someone back for me

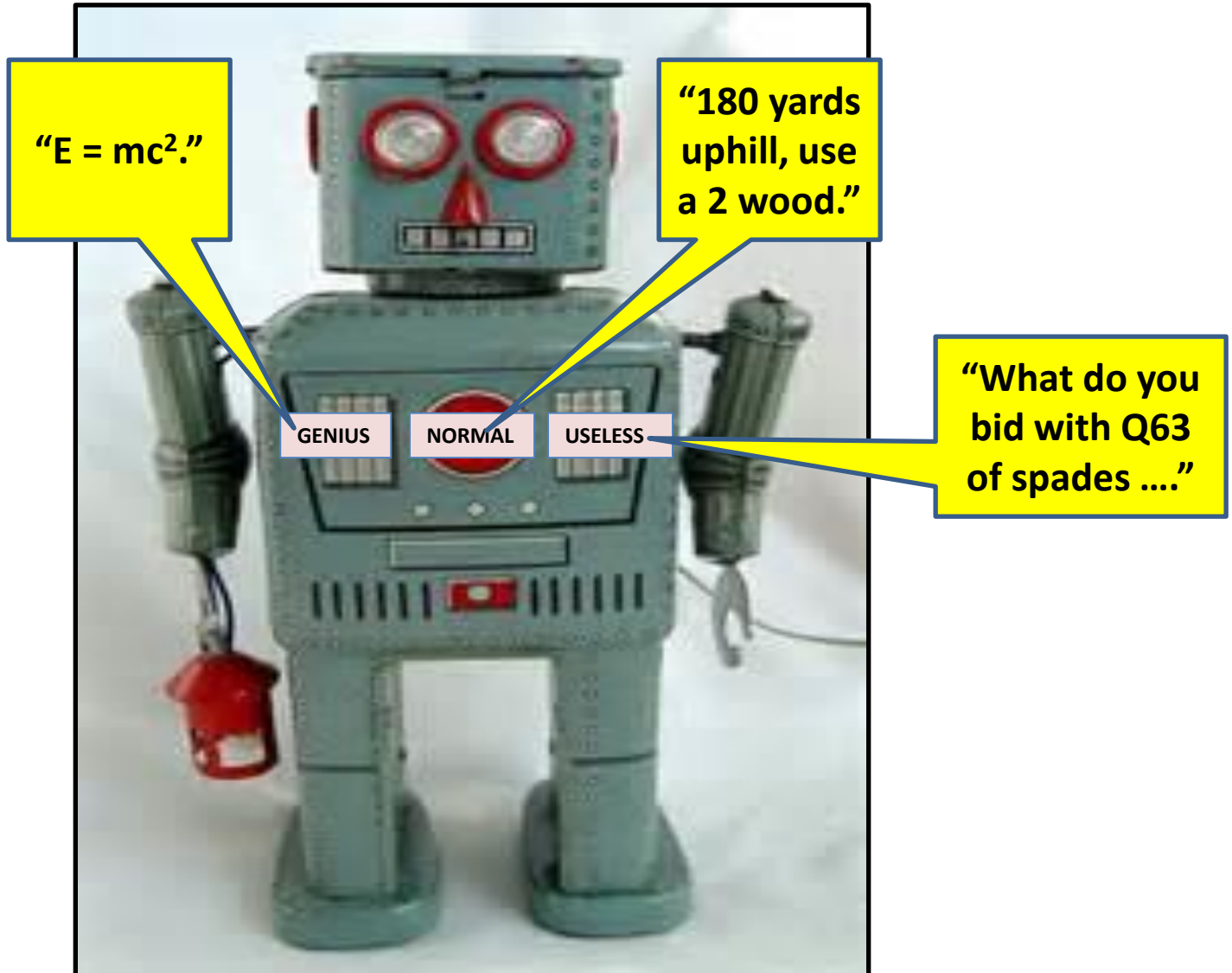
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Time for a Joke



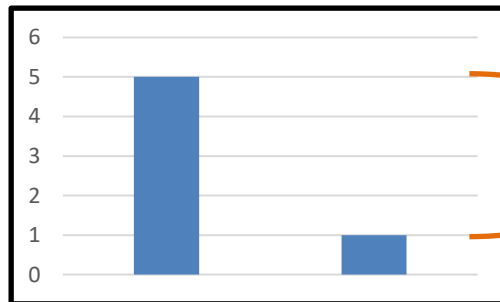
Pre-empting 7+ Long Suits

Rivet!



When you can take at least 4 more tricks playing in your long suit than you can defending, pre-empt, if the vulnerability allows!

♠ AQJ1094	♥ J	♦ J64	♣ 853	South
				NVul



5 tricks on offense

1 trick on defense

4 trick difference

A sacrifice is outbidding the opponents, but losing less points going down, even if doubled.

North	East	South	West
	1D	2S*	

Pre-empting helps you by:

- 1) Disrupting the opponents' bidding.
- 2) Finding sacrifices.
- 3) Helping your partner to lead.

Pre-empting can be broken into 4 categories:

- 1) Pre-empting 6-card suits using the Weak Two Bid
- 2) Pre-empting 7+ long suits
- 3) Pre-empting with 2 long suits
- 4) Pre-empting after your partner has opened

Topic #2

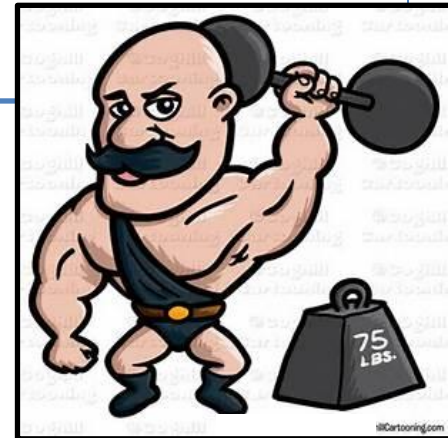
Looking at Strength

When you have long suits, HCPs are seldom reliable to predict a hand's playing strength.

A better tool to use is to count a hand's losers. Here are the rules:

1. You can use fractions (Rounding off the total):

- AQ3 = 1 ½ losers in that suit
- K3 = 1 ½ losers in that suit
- AKJ10643 = ½ loser in that suit
- Q92 = 2 ¾ losers in that suit

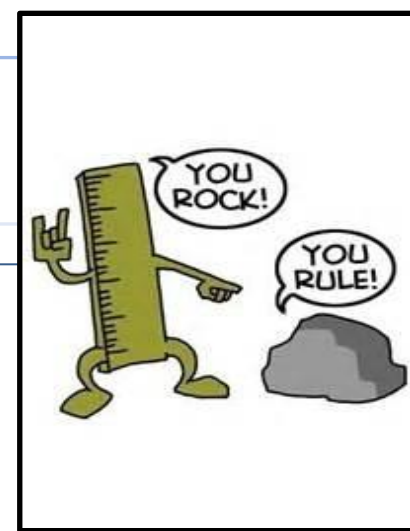


2. In secondary 4-card suits, the lowest card automatically counts as a winner, then assess the other top 3 cards.

♠ KQJ10984 ♥ 8532 ♦ 3 ♣ 5 = 6 losers (only 3 in hearts)

♠ AQJ10753 ♥ A742 ♦ 5 ♣ 7 = 5 losers (only 2 in hearts)

The Rule of 2 and 3



To be very precise with your partner when pre-empting, use the **Rule of 2 and 3**:

Count your losers and round off the answer.

- If you're not vulnerable, you can overbid by 3 tricks.
- If you're vulnerable, you can overbid by only 2 tricks.

Example:

♠KQJ10865 ♥8 ♦76 ♣653 = 7 losers.

- If not vulnerable, overbid by 3 tricks and open the bidding with 3S.
- If vulnerable, overbid by 2 tricks and open the bidding with 2S. You have more than 6 ♠'s, but it's the best lie you can tell your partner.

Let's Try Some

Number of Losers

♠AKQJ10865 ♥8 ♦76 ♣65

5

♠AKJ8652 ♥Q8 ♦76 ♣65

6 1/2

♠J105 ♥KJ86432 ♦KQ5 ♣---

7

♠KJ109863 ♥8 ♦Q6 ♣654

8

♠Q ♥5 ♦QJ109543 ♣KQ103

5 1/2

♠65 ♥K1098642 ♦AQ5 ♣8

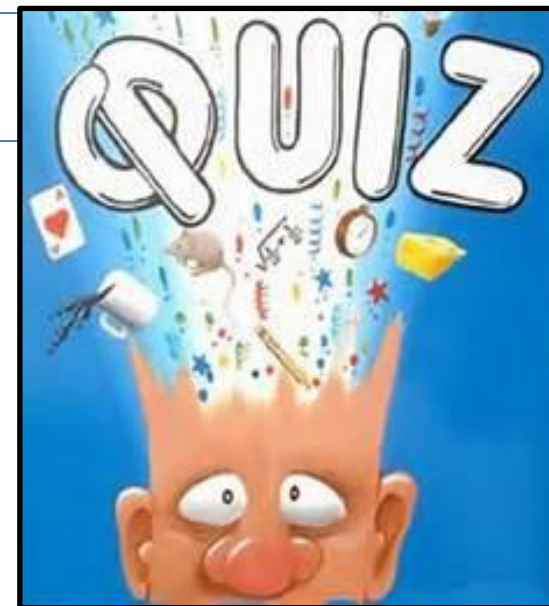
7

♠63 ♥A876542 ♦74 ♣K3

8

♠KJ87643 ♥AJ10 ♦3 ♣J2

7



These are my estimates only.

If you put 10 experts in a room together, you'd get 14 different answers on most of these hands.

Let's Preempt



	Losers	NVul - Bid	Vul - Bid
♠AKQJ10865 ♥8 ♦76 ♣65	5	5S	4S
♠AKJ8652 ♥K8 ♦76 ♣65	6	4S	3S
♠J105 ♥KJ76432 ♦KQ5 ♣---	7	3H	2H
♠KQ10976 ♥8 ♦Q76 ♣654	8	2S	2S
But as we've already learned, 6-card suits don't need to strictly follow the Rule of 2 and 3.			
♠Q ♥5 ♦QJ107543 ♣KQ103	5 1/2	4D	3D
♠65 ♥K986432 ♦AQ5 ♣8	7	3H	2H
♠63 ♥A876542 ♦74 ♣K3	8	2H	Pass
♠KJ8743 ♥AJ10 ♦43 ♣J2	8	2S	2S

But as we've already learned, 6-card suits don't need to strictly follow the Rule of 2 and 3.

Responding to Preempts



Remember to consider what the opponents can make

1)

Vul: None
Dir: East

North	East	South	West
	4H	Pass	???

6 Losers

4 Winners

East

♠ K7
♥ AKJ10632
♦ 1073
♣ 9

West

♠ A932
♥ Q954
♦ J ○ ○
♣ Q432

You make 5H

2)

Vul: E/W
Dir: East

North	East	South	West
	3S	Pass	???

6 Losers

2 Winners

Trumping Diamonds In dummy

East

♠ KQJ87542
♥ 2
♦ 83
♣ 95

West

♠ 93
♥ Q954
♦ A76
♣ KQ32

You make 3S

8+-card fits need these HCPs to make:

- 2 Level – 21 HCPs
- 3 Level – 23 HCPs
- 4 Level – 26 HCPs

Bidding Over Preempts

The Rule of 7



The Rule of 7: When an opponent pre-empts, you have the right to expect an ordinary 7 HCP hand from your partner.

Examples:

1)

Vul:
Both

North	East	South	West
	2H	???	

Dbl

South

♠K1084 ♥83 ♦AJ8 ♣AQ98

Also Dbl with one less ♠ and one more ♦.

2)

Vul:
Nil

North	East	South	West
	2H	???	

2S

South

♠KJ1042 ♥532 ♦A8 ♣AK9

3)

Vul:
Nil

North	East	South	West
	2S	???	

2NT

South

♠KQ7 ♥98 ♦AK98 ♣KQ83

But you *would* bid 1S over RHO's 1D bid.

4)

Vul:
Both

North	East	South	West
	2D	???	

Pass

South

♠KQ763 ♥Q8 ♦Q43 ♣K52

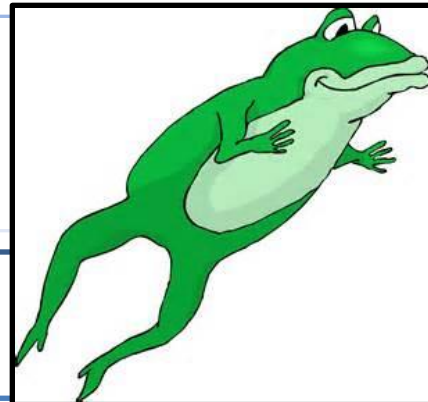
8+ card fits need these HCPs to make:

2 Level – 21 HCPs

3 Level – 23 HCPs

4 Level – 26 HCPs

Bidding Over Preempts (Cont'd)



Hint: The one with shortness in the pre-empted suit usually gets the partnership into the bidding.

Examples:

5)

Vul:
Nil

North	East	South	West
	2S	???	

Pass

South

♠K3 ♥4 ♦A9873 ♣KJ874

Not enough HCPs for a 3D or 3C bid.

6)

Vul:
N/S

North	East	South	West
	2D	???	

3H

South

♠AK4 ♥KQJ872 ♦3 ♣KJ2

7)

Vul:
Nil

North	East	South	West
	2D	???	

4H

South

♠AK ♥AQJ10874 ♦3 ♣A104

If you don't bid it, who will?

8)

Vul:
Nil

North	East	South	West
	3H	???	

3NT

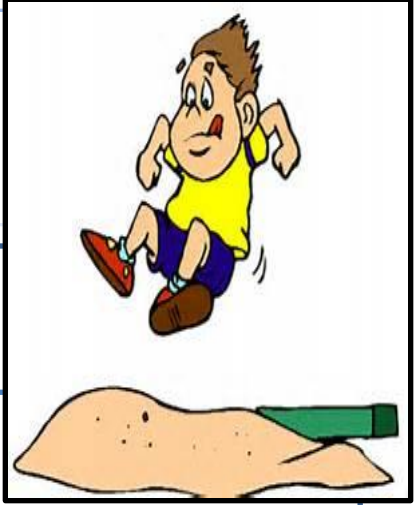
South

♠J3 ♥AQ98 ♦AQJ8 ♣KQ8

Suit contracts need a total of these to make:

- 2 Level – 21 HCPs
- 3 Level – 23 HCPs
- 4 Level – 26 HCPs

Bidding Over Preempts (Cont'd)



Hint: You need less HCPs to bid over a pre-empt in the pass-out (balancing) seat.

Examples:

9)

Vul:
Both

North	East	South	West
	3H	???	

Pass

South

♠AQ976 ♥53 ♦A1043 ♣Q5

12 HCPs and pard's 7 isn't enough for 3S.

10)

Vul:
N/S

North	East	South	West
	3S	???	

Pass

South

♠65 ♥AQJ1083 ♦KJ2 ♣109

Even if you find a fit!

11)

Vul:
Nil

North	East	South	West
	4H	???	

4NT

South

♠5 ♥4 ♦KQJ109 ♣AQJ987

12)

Vul:
Nil

North	East	South	West
???	2D	Pass	Pass

3NT

North

♠J3 ♥AQ98 ♦AQJ8 ♣KQ8

Hand #1



West has 6 winners in spades and 1 ½ winners in hearts, so he should jump to 4S.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
???		1NT	4S

North
 ♠ 3
 ♥ J106
 ♦ KQ642
 ♣ K982

East
 ♠ 987
 ♥ 97
 ♦ J1093
 ♣ A643

North is in a quandary. He could pass, double for penalties, or try 5D, which goes down 1.

West
 ♠ KQJ10542
 ♥ A532
 ♦ 8
 ♣ 10

South
 ♠ A6
 ♥ KQ84
 ♦ A75
 ♣ QJ75

E/W makes 3S only, provided South gets 2 trumps off the dummy when he gets in.

N/S does badly in NT, but makes 4C or 4D only.

Hand #2



With 6 winners, West pre-empts, if NVul.

East has 3 tricks for his partner, so knows they will go down one.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
3S	4C	Pass	3C
Pass			Pass

North
 ♠ AKJ104
 ♥ Q93
 ♦ AQ72
 ♣ 2

East
 ♠ 632
 ♥ AK62
 ♦ J94
 ♣ K94

North plays his partner for an average 7 HCPs, and afford to play at the 3-level.

West
 ♠ 5
 ♥ 54
 ♦ 1083
 ♣ AQJ10875

South knows his partner expects 7 HCPs from him, so passes, having a little less.

South
 ♠ Q987
 ♥ J1087
 ♦ K65
 ♣ 63

N/S loses 2 hearts and a heart ruff, and a club trick - making 3S only.
 E/W goes down 1 in 4C.

PLAYTIME

