

Presents:

The Preemptive Raise

Now that the **Cue Bid** is our way to show a good hand with support, we gain the ability to make **Preemptive Raises** with our bad hands with support.

Take our hand here. We have excellent shape and support for Spades but a very weak hand. This hand can behave differently than normal because now East has overcalled 2 Hearts. How much can we bid?

Rule: Use the Law of Total Tricks

When both sides have fits and are competing in the auction, we have a simple way to determine how high our side can compete.

- I. Count the number of trumps on your side
- 2. You can bid to that trick level
 - 9 trumps = the 9 trick level (3 Level)



So, based on **the law**, South knows her side has 9 trumps and can safely compete to the 3 level in the above auction. With weak hands like South's it is always best to jump to our best level. This direct approach has great preemptive value.

CUE BID 10+ Points Min. 8 card fit

SINGLE RAISE:

6 – 9 points minimum 8 card fit

JUMP RAISE TO 3 LEVEL:

less than 7 points minimum 9 card fit

JUMP RAISE TO 4 LEVEL:

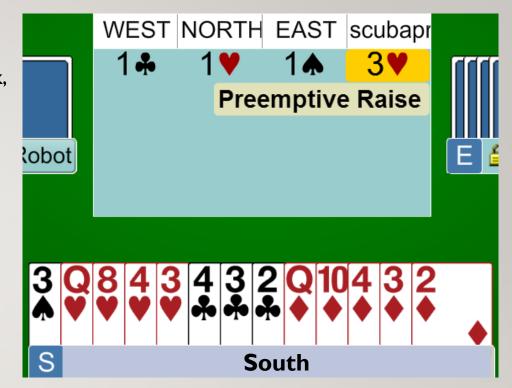
less than 10 points minimum 10 card fit

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Reminder:

When our hands are weak, the opponents' hands are more likely to be strong. So this is the time to bid our bad hands quickly.



Here's a look at a preemptive raise after their side opens the bidding. Same principles apply on this auction: **Bid your bad hands** quickly and use the Law.

Look at how much this bid crowds the auction.

This Preemptive Raise has several advantages:

- It takes an entire level of bids away from the opponents
- It is relatively safe based on the Law of Total Tricks
- It frequently forces mistakes by the opponents.

Here's the full deal on that last one:

Look how difficult the 3 Heart bid makes it for the East and West players.

Even if they get this right, we can feel confident that we have made their decisions as difficult as possible.

