

## YOUR RIGHT HAND OPPONENT OPENS

Here is a little quiz. In each case your opponent on the right deals and opens 1♣. Nobody is vulnerable. What would you bid with each of the 10 hands?

1. ♠ AK10 ♥ Ax ♦ Kxxx ♣ 10xxx      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
2. ♠ x ♥ xx ♦ QJ1098x ♣ KJ10x      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
3. ♠ K10xx ♥ x ♦ A10xx ♣ KQJ8      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
4. ♠ AKJ9 ♥ xx ♦ xx ♣ Axxxx      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
5. ♠ AJ10x ♥ K10xx ♦ Ax ♣ xxx      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
6. ♠ x ♥ J1097x ♦ KQ87xx ♣ x      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
7. ♠ AJ10xx ♥ KQJx ♦ Q98 ♣ x      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
8. ♠ Kxx ♥ xxx ♦ x ♣ KQJ108x      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
9. ♠ QJ97x ♥ QJ98x ♦ xx ♣ x      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_
10. ♠ x ♥ AKJ9xxx ♦ Q109x ♣ x      Your bid \_\_\_\_\_

Many of these are judgment calls. Here are my thoughts. They are all based on a very competitive bidding style.

1. Bid 1NT. You have a nice 14 points so you want to say something. Your clubs are long enough to protect you, even if you don't have any high honors. When RHO opens a minor, you don't need stoppers in that minor to bid 1NT. Remember, you are non-vulnerable. You can be a little bit frisky in your bids.
2. Bid 3♦. Normally, you should have 7 diamonds but you know your LHO is going to bid a major. Why not make it a little uncomfortable for him. Also, the quality of your two suits is very good: lot of honors and high intermediates.
3. You just have to pass this hand for now. There is no bid that describes your shape. If LHO bids hearts you can make a takeout double. If you double now, your partner may well bid the hearts and you'll be stuck.
4. Overcall 1♠. The quality of your four spades equates to a 5-card suit. If partner is on lead, you want him to start with a spade. Again, you are not vulnerable!
5. Double. Your partner is almost assured to bid a major and if he plays it in that major, he will appreciate your Ace doubleton in diamonds.
6. Bid 2NT. This is a conventional bid, called the Unusual Notrump. A jump to 2NT over a 1-level opening is obviously not to show a 20 point hand. It is relatively weak and shows 5-5 in the two lowest unbid suits, asking partner to bid one of them. Since he must bid at the 3-level, this is a dangerous bid to make when you are vulnerable. It usually works out fine when you are not vulnerable.
7. Bid 1♠. It is important to show a 5-card major and the earlier you show it, the more the probability that your side can win the contract at a low level.

8. Bid 3♣. Unless you treat this bid as conventional, a pre-emptive jump to 3♣ is a neat way to show a long club suit of less than opening value.
9. Bid 2♣. This is another conventional bid. It is called the Michaels cuebid and shows 5-5 in the major suits. Normally, this cue bid shows a weakish hand and you will stop bidding once your partner names his longest major.
10. Bid 4♥. Normally, this preemptive bid is made with an 8-card suit. But you have a couple of extra things going for you here. Your heart suit is of exceptional quality and you have a fairly good 4-card diamond side suit. Your opponents probably have a game in spades which they might not be able to find once you move the bidding up to the 4-level.

**How do these thoughts jibe with your own? If they don't, you might want to put yourself in a more competitive frame of mind.**