

PREEMPTIVE JUMP RAISE TO GAME

A double jump raise to game in a major implies very good trump support, usually five or six long, and a highly distributional hand including a singleton or void. It lacks the high card strength necessary for a splinter bid. A typical raise of a 1♥ opening to 4♥: ♠3 ♥K8765 ♦KJ632 ♣76. Add the ace of clubs and you have a 3♠ splinter response. With an in between hand: ♠3 ♥K8765 ♦AQ632 ♣76, a 2♦ response is probably better. This hand is too good for 4♥, not good enough for a 3♠ splinter bid.

South	West	North
1♥	1♠	4♥ - preemptive raise
		3NT - strong raise

See section 3-11, The 3NT Response to a Major Opening. A single jump raise to game (i.e., in competition) is a strong raise:

South	West	North
1♥	3♣	4♥ is strong

In the last sequence a raise to 3♥ would be taken as a merely competitive action, not a serious move toward game, so responder must bid 4♥ with a hand that is at the upper limit of a normal limit jump raise to 3♥. The single jump raise to game therefore has a fairly wide range, 12-15 points or so.

What should North do with a *preemptive*-type game raise, since the double jump is not available? Answer: Just bid 3♥ as a tactical measure. The bidding will surely not stop there, and your "slow bidding" may allow you to buy the hand, perhaps doubled, at a lower level than would otherwise be possible (although the 3♥ must be Alerted because of its ambiguous strength). With a preemptive-type game raise, responder must pull a double by opener when he hasn't had a chance to bid a second time.

If you jump to game with both preemptive and strong raises, partner will not have much to go on if he must make a decision at the five level. And if he doubles, you won't be sure whether to leave it in or not. When a two or three-level cue bid is available to show a strong hand, the jump raise to game is preemptive, even when just a single jump.

The jump raise to game in a minor is a rarity, showing a highly distributional hand, nothing in the majors, little defense, six or seven card support for opener's minor. This is a 5♦ response to a 1♦ opening: ♠3 ♥7 ♦KJ97643 ♣Q763. If the game bid is a single jump, however, responder must have a strong hand:

South	West	North
1♣	3♥	5♣ - strong, not preemptive

North must just bid 4♣ with a preemptive type hand, planning to bid 5♣ on the next round.

Also see section 3-17, Responses by a Passed Hand.