

Doubling for Take-out and Overcalling with 1 NT

28 April 2020

Competing

- ♣ There are three ways of competing after the Opposition has opened the bidding with a suit:
 - Suit overcalling
 - Doubling
 - No Trump overcalling
- ▲ Last week we covered Suit overcalling
- **▼** Today we look at Doubling and 1 NT overcalls
- As last week, we are competing in the Direct position (immediately to the left of the opening bidder)

Doubling

A brief history:

- Doubling was originally used when bridge was played for money to provide:
 - a higher reward for making contracts, and
 - a higher penalty for failing
- ◆ Doubling is still used for penalties always after an opening NT bid and generally after your Opponents have bid at the 3 level or above
- **▼** Mostly, Doubling is now used for consulting with a Partner
- **♣** This use of a Double is known as a Take-out Double, wanting to take away the bidding from your Opponent's bid suit, but asking Partner to describe her hand before you decide the suit in which you would like to play a contract

Doubling for Take-out

- Opponent (to your right) opened with one of a suit (or has bid a "Weak 2" or a "Pre-emptive 3")
- You have:
 - Opening strength (12+ HCPs)
 - No 5+ card suit to bid a Suit Overcall (covered last week)
 - **▲** A shortage in the suit bid and 3+ cards in all the other suits
- You wish to ask your Partner for more information about her hand before bidding
- You double

Responding to your Partner's take-out Double

- Your partner has informed you she:
 - Has opening strength (12+ HCP)
 - She is short in the Opponent's bid suit and does not want to play in it
 - She has at least 3 card in each of the other suits
- She wants to know what your longest suit is
 If you have 5 cards in a suit, you and your Partner have at least an 8 card fit
- If the Opponent to your right passes, your Partner will definitely expect you to bid, whatever your strength.
 If you have a strong hand (9+ HCP), jump a level to inform your Partner
 If you do not bid, you are turning the Double into a penalty with an exceptional hand
- ▼ If there is an intervening bid by your Opponents, you have a "free bid"

 Your Partner will assume you are quite strong (8+ HCP) and/or long in a suit if you bid

 Output

 Description:

 Output

Overcalling with 1 NT from the Direct position

- Opposition (to your right) opens with one of a suit.
- You have:
 - **▲ 15+ HCPs**
 - ♠ A stopper in the suit bid ideally two
 - A balanced hand
- Bid 1 NT

Partner's response to a 1 NT overcall

- ♣ If there is no Response from Opener's partner you, as Responding Partner, can use all of the conventions you have already learnt for responding to 1 NT.
- Namely:
 - Red suit transfer (2 ♦ and 2 ♥)
 - ♦ Stayman (2 ♣)
 - Invitation to Game (most people use 2 NT)
 - **★** Transfer to Minor suit (most people use 2 ♠)
- You are called the "Advancer".
- You should remember your Partner, who bid 1 NT as an overcall, has a strength that is at least 3 higher than the minimum (15 rather than 12) if your Partner had opened 1 NT and adjust your response accordingly.

What response to use when Partner has doubled with 1 NT

Content of Responder's hand	Strength of Responder's hand (in HCPs)				
When Partner has opened 1 NT:	0 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 12	13 - 18	19+
To Partner's 1 NT overcall:	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 9	10 - 15	16+
5+ cards in one or both majors	Red suit transfer 2 ♦ or 2 ♥				
4 cards in one or both majors	Pa	ass	Stayman		
7+ cards in a minor	Transfer 2 🏚	Pass	Game invitation	Bid	Slam
None of the above	Pass		2 NT	Game 3 NT	invitation 4 NT

Example 1

You are in South position with this hand

♠ K J 5 4♥ Q 9♦ A 7 6

- East has opened the bidding with 1 ◆
- What do you bid? _____

Example 2

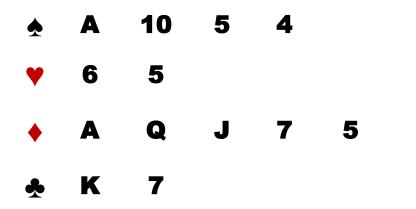
You are in South position with this hand

- ♠ A Q 7 4
- **♥** 6 3
- → K J 10 2
- ♣ K 5 2

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♥

Example 3

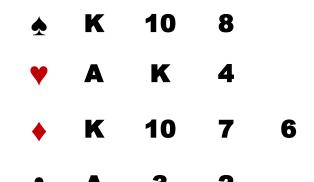
You are in South position with this hand



East has opened the bidding with 1 ♥

Example 4

You are in South position with this hand



East has opened the bidding with 1 ◆

Example 5

You are in South position with this hand

♠ J 9 3

Y Q 10 7 2

♣ Q J 7

West opened the bidding with 1 ◆

Your Partner doubled: X

Responding Opponent (East) passed

What do you bid?

Example 6

You are in South position with this hand

♦ 9 2

♥ J 10 2

♦ K 8 7

♣ K J 10 5 4

West opened the bidding with 1 ♠

Your Partner overcalled 1 NT

Responding Opponent (East) passed

Example 7

You are in South position with this hand

♠ K 9 6 5 3 2

y 8 7 2

♦ 7 4

♣ Q 10

West opened the bidding with 1 ♥

Your Partner doubled: X

Responding Opponent (East) bid 2 ♥

What do you bid?

Example 8

You are in South position with this hand

♠ A Q 2

♥ Q 6 5

♣ 7 4 3 2

West opened the bidding with 1 ♠

Your Partner overcalled 2 ♥

Responding Opponent (East) passed



Thank you