



# **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

# 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)				
	0 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 12	13 - 18	19+
When Partner has opened 1 NT:	0 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 12	13 - 18	19+
To Partner's 1 NT overall:	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 9	10 - 15	16+
5+ cards in one or both majors	<b>Red suit transfer</b> 2 ♦ or 2 ♥				
4 cards in one or both majors	<b>Pass</b>		<b>Stayman</b>		
7+ cards in a minor	<b>Transfer</b> 2 ♠	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Game invitation</b> 2 NT	<b>Bid Game</b> 3 NT	<b>Slam invitation</b> 4 NT
None of the above	<b>Pass</b>				



# Examples on competing with a suit overcall, I NT or Doubling

## Example 1

You are in South position with this hand

♠	<b>K</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
♥	<b>Q</b>	<b>9</b>		
♦	<b>A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	
♣	<b>Q</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♦

What do you bid? \_\_\_\_\_

## Example 2

You are in South position with this hand

♠	<b>A</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
♥	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>		
♦	<b>K</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
♣	<b>K</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♥

What do you bid? \_\_\_\_\_

# Examples on competing with a suit overcall, I NT or Doubling

## Example 3

You are in South position with this hand

♠	A	10	5	4	
♥	6	5			
♦	A	Q	J	7	5
♣	K	7			

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♥

What do you bid? \_\_\_\_\_

## Example 4

You are in South position with this hand

♠	K	10	8	
♥	A	K	4	
♦	K	10	7	6
♣	A	3	2	

East has opened the bidding with 1 ♦

What do you bid? \_\_\_\_\_

# Examples on competing with a suit overcall, 1 NT or Doubling

## Example 5

You are in South position with this hand

♠	J	9	3	
♥	Q	10	7	2
♦	A	J	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

What do you bid? \_\_\_\_\_

# Examples on competing with a suit overcall, 1 NT or Doubling

## Example 7

You are in South position with this hand

♠	<b>K</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
♥	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>			
♦	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>				
♣	<b>Q</b>	<b>10</b>				

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

♠	<b>A</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>2</b>	
♥	<b>Q</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	
♦	<b>A</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>6</b>	
♣	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

West opened the bidding with 1 ♠

Your Partner overcalled 2 ♥

Responding Opponent (East) passed

What do you bid? \_\_\_\_\_



**Thank you**