

MOST COMMON BIDDING MISTAKES

Making take out doubles without the right shape. You should not be making take out doubles just because you have an opening hand.

Failing to open hands which should be opened (and opening hands which shouldn't be opened).

Failing to make a lead directing double when an opponent makes a conventional bid. Double is lead direct.

Random pre-empts. 1st or 2nd seat, (a) my suit will be good, (b) If I have an Ace of my suit, I won't have an outside Ace, In 3rd seat, NO RULES, anything goes, partner needs a big fit to take action.

Incorrect evaluation of balanced hands.

Not using Stayman with some weak hands.

IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO THINK "DOES MY PARTNER KNOW THE WHOLE STORY OF MY OPENING BID OR DO I HAVE MORE TO TELL".

WHEN THE OPPONENTS BIDS SHOW STRENGTH, OPTIONS TO CONSUME SPACE WITH PRE-EMPTIVE ACTIONS ARE DESIRABLE.

WHEN THE OPPONENTS BIDS SHOW WEAKNESS, WE SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE ABILITY TO SHOW STRENGTH.

BASIC PREMISE: CAN NEVER BE PRE-EMPTIVE ACTIONS BY MEMBERS OF OPPOSING SIDES ON THE SAME DEAL.

ASK YOURSELF: WHAT'S FORCING, WHAT'S NON-FORCING, WHAT'S INVITATIONAL? BE CAREFUL TO REVALUE YOUR HAND BEFORE YOU REBID

TEST YOUR BIDDING

YOU OPEN 1 SPADE, PASS, PASS, DOUBLE

1. You hold: AJ1087 KQ876 K2 3 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
2. You hold: AQ976 AK3 AQ10 108 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
3. You hold: AKJ986 3 QJ84 K5 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
4. You hold: KQ1096 AKJ103 A2 3 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
5. You hold: AK109865 2 AJ10 K5 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
6. You hold: AJ876 KQ92 43 QJ WHAT'S YOUR BID?

OPPONENT OPENS 1 DIAMOND, PARTNER DOUBLES, OPPONENT REDOUBLES

1. You hold: A1054 43 108753 54 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
2. You hold: 76 105 1082 KQ9732 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
3. You hold: 765 K54 J863 984 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
4. You hold: 5 K843 753 108532 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
5. You hold: A104 AJ64 97 A743 WHAT'S YOUR BID?
6. You hold: KJ8642 65 976 43 WHAT'S YOUR BID?