

# Takeout doubles

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What to do  
when you  
have an  
opening hand  
but they open  
before you –  
remember  
Bidding is a  
conversation

# Double – where does it come from?

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- The earliest forms of bridge were gambling games.
- Doubles were for penalties when people overbid
- Is it unusual to want to penalise the opposition at low levels, the bid of double is used for other things.....

# Types of doubles

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- Takeout doubles
- Negative doubles
- Support doubles
- Lead directing doubles
- Strength showing
- Penalty doubles
- It also forms part of many conventions eg Brozel, DONT
- Double double toil and trouble! What does partners "X" mean?
- This lesson is about takeout doubles

# Competitive bidding

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- Takeout doubles are a key part of competitive bidding
- Competitive bidding is when both sides are trying to win the contract
- Most hands are played in a part score, not a game, so often both pairs are bidding
- So over time, “double” has come to mean many things in different situations
- It is particularly good because it takes up no bidding space.

# Why make a takeout double?

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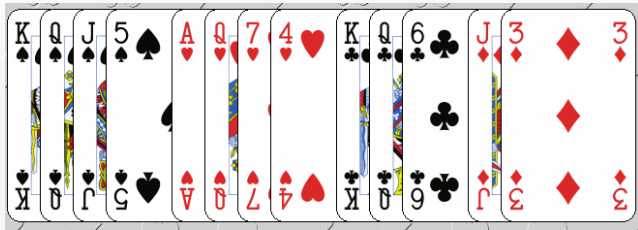
- The opposition have opened 1♥
- Imagine that you can lean across the table and say to partner “I’ve got an opening hand. It looks like this might be a partscore. We can compete. I’ve got at least 3 cards in the unbid suits. Which one do you prefer?”
- This is exactly what a takeout double does!
- It is asking partner to takeout to their preferred suit.

# Bid “X” for takeout after the opposition’s opening bid when

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- Opposition has opened
- Partner hasn’t bid
- Around opening points
- Shortage in the suit the opponents have bid (2 or less). This means that you can support any of the other suits that partner bids.
- Shape is more important than points – we are trying to compete for the contract

## Example 1



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1♦	?

# What do you bid?

- Partner passed, they opened 1♦. What do you bid?
- You have 18 HCP, they have at least 12 HCP so partscore is likely
- 2 diamonds, no overcall, support for other 3 suits
- Bid “X” (double) asking partner to bid their longest or best suit

# What does partner do?

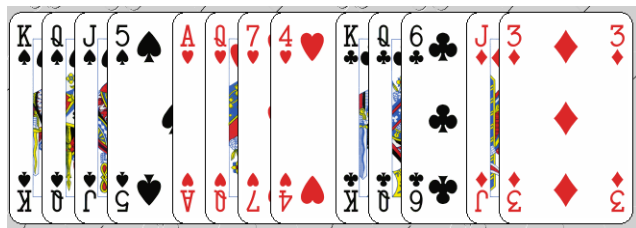
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- The double is forcing. If the opposition doesn't bid after the X, partner must bid even if they have 0 points.
- Partner should bid their longest suit. They know that the doubler has support (at least 3 cards) so there should be a fit
- What if the opponents bid after the double (they are competing too!)? Partner can pass
- How high does partner bid if there is a fit:
  - 0-8 points – make the lowest level bid
  - 9-11 points – jump a level in the bidding
  - 12-13 points – bid game or bid their suit (cue bid)



## Example 1 continued

# What do you bid?



- The bidding has gone
  - Partner bids 1♥. What do you bid?
- 
- You now have 19 total points so don't need much from partner – remember they might have 0 points
  - Partner has less than 12 points as they didn't open
  - Bid 2♥.

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
Pass	1♥	Pass	?

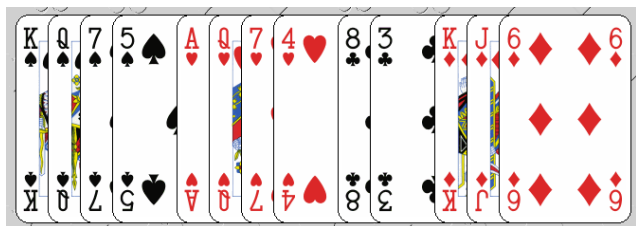
# What does doubler do next

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- Remember that you have **forced** partner to bid.
- Partner may have no points at all
- So after partner's response to your double
  - Pass with a minimum hand (13-15)
  - Raise one level with 16-18 points with a fit
  - Jump raise (raise 2 levels) with 19-20 points with a fit
- If partner has bid your 3 card suit at the lowest level, there isn't a fit and game is unlikely. So pass! Bidding another suit isn't going to help, you will only end up at a higher level with a worse fit



## Example 2 continued



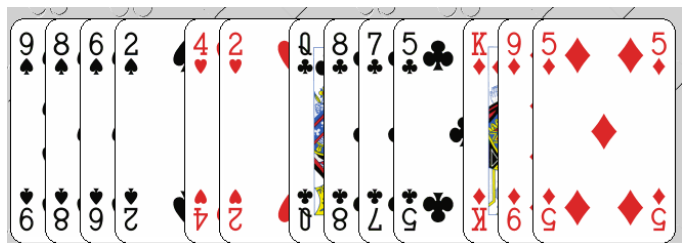
# What do you bid?

- After your double, partner has bid 2♥. What do you bid?

West	North	East	South
pass	2♥	1♣* <sup>1</sup>	dbl
		pass	??

- Partner has bid 2♥. They could have bid 1♥. So they must have more points than 0-8. They should have 9-11 points
- You have 16 points so bid 4♥

### Example 3

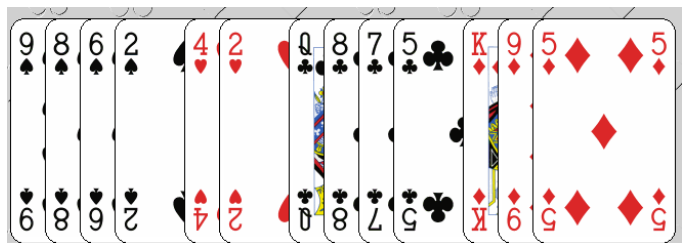


West	North	East	South
1♥	dbl	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	??

# What do you bid?

- They opened 1♥. Partner doubled. They bid 3♥. What do you bid?
- The opposition has bid over the double, so you don't have to bid
- You have 5 points
- Pass

## Example 3 continue



West	North	East	South
1♥	dbl	3♥ <sup>1</sup>	pass
pass	3♠	pass	??

# What do you bid?

- Partner has now bid 3♠. What do you bid?
- The opposition has bid over the double, so you don't have to bid
- You have 5 points
- Partner has bid 3♠ on their own. They must have more points than just 12-15 and they must have at least 5+♠.
- What does 3♥ mean? Ask and then decide whether to pass or bid 4♠.
- Many people play 3♥ to be weak with 4 card support – we will learn about this next week in “Countering Doubles”



# Summary

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- Double the opposition opening bid (takeout) to show
  - Opening values (or more)
  - Shortage in opener's suit (2 or fewer cards)
  - Support for the other suits
- If partner has doubled the opening bid – you must bid (if the opponents haven't)
  - One level 0-8points
  - Jump a level 9-11 points
  - Bid game with 12+ or bid their suit (cue bid)
- Discuss with your partner how high you do takeout doubles. Many pairs play takeout doubles to 3♠ (doubles above this are for penalties)
- Discuss with your partner when they will double. They should have support for the other 3 suits and a shortage in the opposition's bid suit.