

Did I just bid that

You made a bid and you then you realise that it is not what you should have bid.

There are 2 types

1. A slip of the fingers – You pulled out the wrong card from the bidding box
2. A mistake – You should have bid something else but you intended to make the bid you did

In the case of a **mistake** you cannot change it, you just have to live with it

For example you are dealer and put 1NT down on the table and your partner announces 12-14 and you now remember that you are playing a weak NT and with your 17pts you should not have bid 1NT. Unfortunately you meant to bid 1NT and only your partner alerted you, to your mistake so you cannot correct it,

In the case of a “**slip of the fingers**” you may be able to correct it.

So again you are dealer and you put down 1NT and your partner announces 12-14 and you look down at the table in horror as you meant to put down 1S but somehow managed to muddle up the 1NT and 1S cards from your bidding box. As long as your partner has not bid, you can change the bid to the correct one, and it will be deemed as what is known as a Mechanical Error, because you meant to put down 1S and your partner’s announcement made you aware of your error.

Imagine that you are dealer again and you put down 1S and so no alert from your partner but this time you meant to bid 1NT. Now your partner puts down 2C and you alert “Stayman”, now what happens? Too late as your partner has now bid and worse than that you now have a problem of Unauthorised Information.

Equally you open 1NT you think but actually you put down 1S, the next player now bids 1NT and you say “Insufficient Bid” to their astonishment and then you realise that you intended to put down 1NT but had mistakenly put 1S on the table. You can now still change your bid but will need to call the Director as the next player will be able to retract this bid and there will be other consequences.

So the simple answer is **Check what you put down as a bid** before your partner bids at the latest and preferably before the next player bids.