

Is This A Penalty  
Double? Or What?



# You Must Double to Protect Yourself

- Not vulnerable down two gives a score of 100 points.
- Any major suit or no trump partscore at the two level or any 3 level part score is more than 100 points.
- Down two vulnerable is 200 points.
- Down two doubled (not vul) is 300 points, which is worse than any partscore.

# Let's Take a Look at Some Doubles

- Are they:
  - Conventional?
  - Takeout?
  - Penalty?
  - Optional?

# Example 1

- | North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♥   | dbld | 2 ♥   | pass |
| pass  | dbld | pass  | ??   |

Should West bid or pass?

Takeout. West is being asked to bid one of the unbid suits. East has 18+ points.

# Example 2

- | North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♥   | dbld | pass  | 1 ♠  |
| 2 ♥   | dbld | pass  | ??   |

Should West bid or pass?

This is a penalty double. East knows what suit West likes if she wants to bid.

# Example 3

- | North  | East | South | West |
|--------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♥    | 2 ♦  | pass  | pass |
| double | pass | ??    |      |

Should South bid or pass?

This is an optional double. North is asking, “Do you want to defend?”

# Example 4

- North      East      South      West  
1 ♣      1 ♦      dble      pass  
??

Should North bid or pass?

This is a negative double... South says,  
“Pick a major.”

# Example 5

- North      East      South      West  
1 ♣      2 ♠      dble      pass  
??

Should North bid or pass?

Another negative double, showing the unbid suits.



# Example 6

- | North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♣   | pass | 1 ♠   | 2 ♥  |
| dble  | pass | ??    |      |

Should South bid or pass?

Depends on the system N/S are playing. If they play support doubles, North is showing 3-card support for South's spades.

# Example 7

• North	East	South	West
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	pass
2 ♠	3 ♥	dbld	pass
??			

Should North bid or pass?

Penalty double. North should pass.

# Example 8

- North      East      South      West  
    1♥      1nt      dble      pass  
    ??

Should North bid or pass?

Penalty double. North should pass.

# Example 9

- North      East      South      West  
    1nt      2 ♥      dble      pass  
    ??

Should North bid or pass?

Depends on the system N/S are playing, but in most cases it is a penalty.

# Example 10

- North      East      South      West  
1 ♠      2 ♥      dble      pass

Should North bid or pass?

Negative double. South is asking North to pick a minor suit.

# Example 11

- | North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 ♣   | pass | 2 ♣   | pass |
| pass  | dbld | pass  | ??   |

Should West bid or pass?

This is a balancing double. East, seeing N/S stop at the two level, wants to compete.

# Example 11

- North      East      South      West  
    1 ♠      pass      pass      dble  
    pass      ??

Should East bid or pass?

A balancing double. Bid your best suit.

# Example 12

- | North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1 nt  | pass | 2 ♥*  | dbld |
| 2 ♠   | ??   |       |      |

\*transfer

Should East bid or pass?

Lead directing double. East should pass and lead a heart.



# Example 13

- | North  | East   | South    | West |
|--------|--------|----------|------|
| 1 ♠    | double | redouble | 2 ♥  |
| double | pass   | ??       |      |

Should South bid or pass?

South should pass. North's double is pinalty.

# Example 14

• North	East	South	West
1 ♠	dbler	redble	2 ♥
pass	pass	dbler	pass
??			

Should North bid or pass?

North should pass. South's double is penalty.

# Example 15

• North	East	South	West
1 ♠	dbld	2 ♠	dbld
psss	??		

Should East bid or pass?

East should bid. West's double is a responsive double. East should pick a minor suit.

# Example 16

• North	East	South	West
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥	dbld
psss	??		

Should East bid or pass?

East should bid. West's double is a responsive double. East should pick a minor suit.