

## **Lesson 3 Doubles**

### **Outline**

1. Negative Doubles
2. Support Doubles
3. Responsive Doubles
4. Penalty Doubles
5. Takeout Doubles
6. Bridge Tips

## DOUBLES

**Negative Doubles** – A negative double is a double that shows values for the other two suits when partner opens and the opponents overcall.

Example:

1. South makes a negative double showing at least 6 – 9 points and 4 hearts and at least 3 diamonds.

N	E	S	W
1D	1S	DBL	2S

2. South makes a negative double showing at least 13 – 15 point and at least 3 diamonds

1S	3H	DBL	P
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**Support doubles** – A support double is a double in the responding position when the declarer opens a minor suit and you respond up the line with your suit. Then, the opponent bids. Your partner now doubles. This double shows exactly 3 cards in partner's suit; otherwise partner would raise your suit showing 4 in that suit.

North's double shows exactly 3 spades.

1D	P	1S	2H
Dbi			

**Responsive doubles** – After Left Hand Opponent opens a suit, partner makes a takeout double. Left hand opponent's partner then bids. You now make a double. This shows values of 6 – 9 points or 10 – 12 points and distribution in the unbid suits.

1S	DBL	2S	DBL
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Hint: West does not have 4 hearts since partner promised 4 hearts for his takeout double. Therefore, he should be showing at least 4 diamonds and 4 clubs, but not 4 hearts.

**Penalty doubles** – A penalty double is any double that you make that you can or think that you can set the contract at the game level or higher. A penalty double at below game is the most difficult double in bridge for penalty. The general rule of thumb is to add your partner's points and your points and figure out whether the opponents are too high. If they are, you should double them.

In this example, South made a penalty double because he knows that his points and partner's points are more than enough points to set a 1NT contract by E.

N	E	S	W
1H	1NT	DBL	P

In this example, South made a penalty double because he THINKS that his points and partner's points are enough to set the hand (and also) and also has usually two tricks of his own in the trump suit.

1S	2H	2S	P
P	3H	DBL	

**Takeout Doubles** – A takeout double means that you have support for the other suits, and you double after an opening bid.

In this example, East makes a takeout double showing at least an opening hand and support for hearts, diamonds, and clubs. West had to bid and shows 0 – 9 points.

1S	DBL	P	2H
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In this example, West has 10 – 12 points and 4 hearts.

1S	DBL	P	3H
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In this example, West has 13 – 15 points and 4 hearts.

1S	DBL	P	4H
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In this example, West has 10 – 12 points and no 4 card heart suit, but a stopper in spades.

1S	DBL	P	2NT
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In this example, West has 13 – 15 points and no 4 card heart suit, but a stopper in spades.

**Bridge Tips**

1. With 14 points and 4 diamonds, and 5 clubs, you have to have a partnership understanding about what to open the hand with and what to rebid. For example, you can never open 1C and partner responds, and you bid 2D.
2. After opponent opens 1 of a suit, everyone passes and you bid 2 of a different suit at the 2 level. This shows an opening hand and 6 of that suit.

<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>
1D	P	P	2S

3. After the opponent preempts, you then bid 2 or 3 of your 5 or more card suit. This shows 13 – 15 points and at least 5 cards in that suit. Never overcall an opponent's preempt with a preempt of your own. Partner thinks you have an opening hand.

2H	2S	P	3S (10 – 12 points)
			4S (13 – 15 points)

4. If you respond 2NT, after you open and partner responds, you have 18 points.

In this example, North has 18 points when partner opens a minor suit.

1D	P	1NT	P
2NT			

In this example, North has 18 points when partner opens a major suit.

1S	P	1NT	P
2NT			

5. Your partner as N opens 2C. East doubles (showing good club suit). Your partner redoubles. The redouble shows 0 – 3 points.

2C	DBL	Redouble	P
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6. Your partner as N opens 2C. East doubles (showing good club suit). Your partner passes. The pass shows more than 4 points.