



## Lesson 35 Examples

### When to make a Takeout Double

You are West. South opens 1♥.

♠K972  
♥3  
♦AQ65  
♣AK83

♠AQ10932  
♥2  
♦A52  
♣K76

16HCP, but no good suit.

No stopper in hearts, so not 1NT.

Support for all the unbid suits, so “Double”

asking partner to bid his longest suit, even with 0HCP

This time you have a good suit, so *do not double*  
bid 1♠ to show a decent suit

### Overcall or Double?

You are West and South opens 1♦

♠AQ74  
♥KJ83  
♦105  
♣AQ2

♠AJ4  
♥Q2  
♦KQ7  
♣KJ1063

♠A5  
♥KQ10962  
♦J74  
♣98

#### Double

No stopper in diamonds  
Support for all unbid suits

#### 1NT

16HCP and a stopper in their suit

#### 1♥

Standard at any vulnerability

♠AQ109  
♥KJ9  
♦7  
♣A7543

♠Q54  
♥KQJ1097  
♦9  
♣862

♠Q2  
♥KJ7  
♦QJ84  
♣A965

#### Double

The majors are important: you need at least 3 cards in all unbid majors to double.

#### 2♥

Powerful suit, good shape  
a good weak jump overcall

#### Pass

Not all hands with opening strength are suitable for a takeout double. Partner will usually bid a major and you have too few cards in spades



## Lesson 35 Examples

### Double in the sandwich position

♠K972  
♥3  
♦AQ65  
♣AK83

West	North	East	South
-	1♥	Pass	2♥
??			

#### Double

When opponents have bid just one suit the  
Takeout double shows length in the other three.

♠93  
♥AQ105  
♦92  
♣AK874

West	North	East	South
-	1♦	Pass	1♠
??			

#### Double

Here double shows opening strength and length in both  
unbid suits, hearts and clubs

### Takeout or Penalty? Some sample auctions

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	double	

#### A takeout double.

Double over one of a suit is takeout even though  
partner has passed.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	double

A **takeout double** – your side has not bid up till  
now, but you want to compete in the majors

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	double

A **penalty double** - they have reached game

West	North	East	South
1♥	double	1♠	double

North's double is **takeout**

South's double is **penalty** - partner asked for your  
best suit and it is spades. North's double promises  
at least 3 spades, so East will not prosper in 1♠

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♣	double

Also **takeout** in the sandwich position

**All partner has done so far is Pass.**

West	North	East	South
1NT	2♥	double	

A **penalty double** - partner opened 1NT



## Lesson 35 Examples

### Responding to a takeout double:

West North East South  
 - 1♥ double Pass  
 ?

♠KJ92  
 ♥10942  
 ♦542  
 ♣Q6

1♠

Respond in your longest suit  
 (unless an opponent has bid it)

♠7  
 ♥A42  
 ♦KQJ64  
 ♣9853

3♦

We make a *jump response* when  
 our hand is better than partner  
 may expect.

♠1094  
 ♥KJ92  
 ♦K42  
 ♣732

1NT

Balanced, 6+HCP and a stopper  
 in their suit.

♠9  
 ♥QJ10964  
 ♦Q632  
 ♣84

Pass

Only when we probably have  
 more trump than they do.  
 (Partner should lead a trump  
 if he has one)

♠876  
 ♥92  
 ♦1043  
 ♣J10964

2♣

You are forced to bid, and may as  
 well bid your longest suit

♠J874  
 ♥1052  
 ♦109653  
 ♣4

1♠

Partner guarantees length in spades  
 when he doubles 1♥. Make the  
 cheaper bid with a weak hand -  
 partner may not have diamonds

West North East South  
 - - - 1♦  
 Pass 1♠ double Pass  
 ?

♠87  
 ♥76  
 ♦QJ952  
 ♣10965

2♣

Partner has asked us to choose between  
 the two unbid suits

West North East South  
 - 1♣ double 1♠  
 ?

♠1085  
 ♥J63  
 ♦Q72  
 ♣9864

Pass

By bidding 1♠ South relieves us of the responsibility  
 of bidding. With nothing to say we can Pass.