



Lesson 20 Teacher's Notes

The Takeout Double

Aims

- To revise the concept of a *conventional bid*
- To introduce the takeout double

Content

- 1 Discuss the meaning of the call 'double'
The original meaning of 'double' is **penalty** – you think opponents have bid too much and will not make their contract.
But it is unlikely that we can double an opening bid at the 1-level for penalties – that would mean we could make at least 7 tricks in an opponent's best suit.
A 1-level contract is a low contract and cannot go many down
Little is known about partner's strength at such an early stage of the bidding.
*So we do not double for penalties at the 1-level - we double for **takeout**.*
We use a **takeout double** when we want to bid over 1 of a suit, but don't know what to bid.
- 2 Explain the meaning of a Takeout Double.
Double of an opening bid of one of a suit says: "Partner, I have opening strength (13+HCP) but no suit good enough to overcall. Please name your longest suit."
(NB: the takeout double can have other meanings which we will come to later)
The takeout double is a **conventional** bid.
It is NOT natural. It does NOT mean "Let's double the scores"
(cf Stayman where 2♣ does NOT show a biddable club suit.)
The takeout double does not mean that the opposition will play in their contract doubled!
- 3 Explain when not to double – when you have length in the suit opened.
You must have support for any suit partner may bid.
- 4 Discuss how we respond to the takeout double
The key point is you **may not pass partner's takeout double**.
The double asks you to bid your longest suit - and that is what you do, ***even with no points***
Partner has effectively bid three suits and you are supporting him.
- 5 Note that if RHO bids over partner's double he has removed your responsibility to bid.
Now if you make a voluntary bid you show the values for a response to an opening bid.
We do not need to bid when partner has another chance to do so.