

TAKEOUT DOUBLE OR PENALTY?
Quiz by Eddie Kantar. Answers below by Eddie and Barbara

What is the meaning of the last double in each of the following sequences. Is it a penalty double or is it a takeout double?

1. South West North East
1NT Pass 2C* Dbl? *

2. South West North East
1S Dbl 2S Pass
3S Dbl?

3. South West
4D Dbl?

4. South West North East
1C Pass 3D Dbl?

5. South West North East
1S Dbl. Rdbl. 2C
Dbl

6. South West North East
1H Dbl. 2H Dbl?

SOLUTIONS

1. Penalty. Doubles of artificial bids (fake bids) are both penalty and lead directing doubles. If partner is on lead, she must lead a Club.

2. Takeout. West had a takeout double of 1S, so his hand couldn't have changed during the bidding. He still has a takeout double, only a strong one, a very strong one.

3. Takeout. Doubles of opening bids of 4C and 4D are for takeout. Most play that a double of 4H is also for takeout, but there is no agreement as to what a double of 4S means. Most play it as a penalty double. Something to talk over with your partner.

4. Takeout.

North's 3D bid is preemptive but does show Diamonds. East must have the majors.

5. Penalty. After a redouble, any further double by either the opener or the responder is a penalty double.

The Redouble shows 10 or more HCP, so South knows that on this hand, NS has most of the strength. Hence South's penalty double. South must have good Clubs to double.

6. Takeout. After partner makes a takeout double and responder raises, a double by 4th hand is a Responsive Double. After West made a takeout double, if East had four cards or more in the Spade suit, he would bid Spades.

Thus East does not have four Spades but is at least 4-4 in the minors and he asks partner to pick a minor. East probably has both minors and wants to land in the right one. For example S. 84 H. 1087 D. KJ54 C. A1087

Last but NOT least, there is a father and his son (age 13) who are Ukrainian refugees. They are being hosted by a lovely couple in Toronto (bridge players). If anyone should happen to know of a reasonably-priced apartment that they could afford (Dad will be working), please let me know and I will pass it on.

Don't forget to do the quiz (# 70). Scroll down for that and the answers.

Bless you one and all for your kind words and for caring. Stay well.

Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel

www.barbaraseagram.com

Face to Face Bridge vs Online Bridge **by Bob Gilck** **from the Grand River Bridge Club (GRBC) newsletter**

I joined GRBC in 1 BC (Before Covid), the summer of 2019. Never heard of BBO online bridge and didn't need to. I had everything I wanted at GRBC. If someone had told me we were playing F2F, I would have had no idea what they were saying.

Then it became February 2020 and the whole world was turned upside down. Now it is June 2022 and we are transitioning to a new "normal". I have now played four Friday F2F 499'er games and have really enjoyed them. GRBC executive have done everything plus more to keep everyone safe. Do the players I meet look older? Absolutely not! I look in the mirror every morning and I don't look more than a day older than yesterday.

Are the players more relaxed? Definitely!
Everyone, including myself, has two years' more experience.

In 1970, I had just completed my machinist apprenticeship and received my journeyman certificate. I worked for my dad and will never forget his comment at the time. He told me to come back in 10 years and I will call you a machinist. Kinda sounds like bridge to me.

Is F2F better than BBO online or versa vice? Or are they just different and the same?

Face to Face (F2F)

I reneged twice at two different tables in one afternoon this past week. I am still waiting for my trophy (klutz of the afternoon award).

BBO

Who would put the double button directly below the pass button?
The one bid is the complete opposite of the other.
Daffy Duck (me) with big thumbs has made a mess of this more than once.

F2F

Your partner doesn't get to see your hand if you are playing the contract. This can be a good thing, if you messed up the bidding. Or if your play of the hand is completely unorthodox.

BBO

Your partner gets to see your hand if you are playing the contract.
Now they get to mentally play the hand for you, this is never a good thing.

F2F

Once you sit at the table there are few to no distractions

BBO

Distractions are a large part of online bridge

Finishing my lunch, have to run to the fridge and get the mustard, only be a minute, oops dropped the mustard, boy what a mess.

Doorbell rings, only be a minute, registered letter, oops eye glasses are on the kitchen table.

Phone rings, only be a minute, oh no, it's Aunt Gladys, she talks forever.

My one partner was way too honest with me, oops dropped my iPad getting out of the truck.

Or, how many times have I heard, oops, spilled my wine, just be a minute.

Don't be surprised if there is a request for a liquor licence at F2F.

If there isn't a law against distracted bridge playing, there should be.

What I personally miss in F2F that BBO offers

F2F

You have no idea how well or poorly you are doing compared to everyone else.

Results are available, only at the end of the afternoon or close to the end of the afternoon.

BBO

Results are in real time and after each table you can check your standing compared to everyone else.

(I guarantee everyone on BBO checks their game history all the time.)

I am going to suggest that the director for the afternoon F2F provide results at the completion of each table, on the monitor (if this is possible).

I think this would increase the competitiveness throughout the afternoon (as though bridge needs to be more competitive).

What I personally miss on BBO that F2F offers

I can finally put a face to the username.

Your opponents, that put you down in a contract, are actually really nice people.

I can offer some light conversation during the game that I can't or don't on BBO

(I am not a two thumbbed teenager who can type at lightning speed).

I get in my car, drive with a purpose and am out for the afternoon.

See everyone soon or sooner.

SUSAN LAWTON: THE ANSWER LADY

Also from the Grand River Bridge Club, Susan Lawton is known as The Answer Lady. She has been responding to questions from newer players who are members of that bridge club. Here are a couple of her answers that offer clarification on some small details that often cause confusion.

Question:

Barbara Seagram's book Bridge Basics was used as the textbook for my beginning bridge course. Barbara provides a detailed and sequential order on how to respond with 6-9 points

after partner opens. Is that order “carved in stone”? Sometimes I feel a different sequence or choice comes to mind as I prepare to bid as Responder.

Overview Answer

The passage is reproduced below.

With 6-9 points, Responder should choose the following menu options in this specific order.

1. With trump support (only three), raise your partner's major suit (hearts or spades) from one to two.
2. Bid one of a new suit (at the one level).
3. Bid 1NT.
4. Support your partner's minor bid if you have five clubs or five diamonds and no four-card major.

A kinky choice if you have between 2 - 9 points (including distribution), and five of partner's major suit, is to jump immediately, from one to four

i.e. 1H - 4H or 1S - 4S.

Question

I wonder if bidding the last choice, 1H-4H or 1S-4S, should move up the ladder and be listed as the first priority? The first choice seems like such a waste.

Answer

*The last choice (the “kinky” choice) is at the bottom of Barbara’s list which might make you think it is last priority, but in reality it is treated as first priority **when it applies – but only when it applies.***

Barbara's sequence of choices is all about accurate and honest partner communication. While it might be tempting to bid 1H-4H or 1S-4S every time, you don't want to “surprise” your partner who might lose confidence and trust in your bidding. A 1H-4H or 1S-4S response should be reserved for **only if you have five of partner’s major suit and between 2 and 9 points.**

This jump bid is like an opening pre-emptive bid. It interferes with opponents' ability to communicate and to find a game in another suit. Your partner knows you have made a weak response and will likely not bid further. To demonstrate, here's a hand below to illustrate that very bidding sequence. (The hand below is actually a tad rich for this bid but it still seems like the best bid for this hand.)

This is the perfect time for Barbara's kinky option. But if you were to have only three cards in your partner's five-card major and 6-9 points, you would be strong enough to make just one bid and one bid only, that is a simple raise - namely 1H-2H or 1S-2S.

If Opener has more than opening points, he/she will bid further, providing additional information about the strength of the hand – and possibly invite or even bid game. In this case, such decisions would be made by Opener, not Responder. You have accurately described your hand: 6-9 points and three- card support for Opener's major suit.

	N North ♠ KJ96 ♥ Q9632 ♦ 3 ♣ Q42	W N E S P 4♥ P P P
	W West ♠ Q7 ♥ 8 ♦ 108642 ♣ A10863	
	S South ♠ A1032 ♥ AKJ1054 ♦ A7 ♣ K	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

Oops, I made the wrong bid

by Paul Friedman; St Petersburg Bridge Club

Applicable to Face to Face play

If you pulled the wrong bid from the bidding box (i.e., you meant to bid 2H, but placed the 2S card on the table due to clumsy fingers), you can retract the 2S card and replace it with no penalty if and only if you correct it before your partner bids. If your left hand opponent has already bid, they can retract their call and replace it as desired. If your left hand opponent does change their call, their partner, but not the opponents, are allowed to use whatever information is gleaned from the retracted call. If you fail to rectify the error before your partner bids, you are not allowed to draw attention to the error in any way (word or gesture. i.e. Keep a poker face!)

As always when there is a possible rule infringement, you should call the director. They determine if the misbid is a physical or mental error. If it was a physical oops (clumsy fingers), the above paragraph explains what will happen. If it is ruled a mental oops, life becomes more complicated. A discussion for another day.

As Declarer: How to play AJ3 facing KT2 by Paul Friedman

If you correctly guess which opponent holds the queen, you will make three tricks. If you misguess, you will almost always be limited to two tricks in the suit. By far, the best way to guess the queen is to not guess at all. If you can arrange the play so that either opponent leads this suit, you will always make three tricks. This is called an "end play" is explained in detail in Barbara Seagram's recording: "End Plays Made Easy"

If end playing the opponents is not possible, you are back to guessing the queen's location. Your guess, however, can be an educated guess. Sometimes this is obvious. For example, one of your opponents opened or overcalled a strong 1NT (15-17 hcp) and you are the declarer. You can count up Declarer's and Dummy's HCP...Let's say you have 24 HCP between you. Now add your opponent's points (the one who bid 1NT) . That person has 15-17 HCP. the high card points that the 1NT's partner has shown This means that the remaining hand has at most 1 HCP and cannot hold the missing Queen.

Most cases are not this obvious, of course. The opponent's bidding, or lack thereof, can be a big help. Let's say your left hand opponent was the dealer and opens the proceedings with a pass. Their opening lead is an ace followed by the king of a side suit. On trick three you win the lead of a small card. When you draw trump, your left hand opponent follows with the king of trump. In a side suit you hold AT9 while dummy has KJ8 of that suit. Who is more likely to hold the queen of this suit? Your left hand opponent has shown up with AKK already. If they also hold the queen in question, they might have opened the bidding since they hold at least 12 HCP. So, playing your right hand opponent for the queen clearly gives you better odds.

What is the Rule of Seven?

A guideline on how many times Declarer should hold up (play low rather than win the trick) in a suit in which they have only one stopper when playing 3NT. Subtract the number of cards you and dummy have in the suit led from seven and hold up that many times.

BRIDGE THINKING

Parity

**Excerpted From newsletter by Bonita Bridge Club
(Adjustments made by Barbara)**

Parity is a consideration you should always have when you are on defense.

Maintaining parity means simply that if you as a defender hold a suit that is as long or longer than the dummy's holding and your highest card is higher than dummy's lowest, you should strive to keep your length in that suit equal to that of the dummy. i.e. keep parity with the dummy.

If you can determine the length of any suit held by the declarer the same thing holds; that's a little tougher. Let's say you, as a defender, have four Spades. Declarer has responded 1S early in the auction. You must not discard any Spades unless they are the 5432.

Declarer may have AKQ6 and you as a Defender may have 10543. Dummy has only two Spades and Declarer is in a No Trump contract. Your partner's J will fall on the third round of Spades and your 10 will win a trick (or at least prevent Declarer from winning an extra trick in that suit). If you had discarded one of those Spades, you have helped Declarer to score an extra trick.

Rules

We are often given some 'rules' like *return your partner's lead, third hand high, second hand low*. We should remember that in bridge, rules are not the same as laws. Laws must be obeyed, rules are guidelines.

Rules are not meant to be a substitute for thinking. Second Hand low is an example. This is a rule for the defense and its primary purpose is that if you play low then your partner (the fourth hand to play) may be able to win the trick and might even be able to win it cheaply. This rule only applies to the first time the suit is led, if partner can't win on the first go, it's not likely she's going to be able to win on the next.

**BELOW IS A LIST OF ALL MY RECORDINGS (VIDEO & AUDIO)
OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS**

**EACH ONE COMES WITH A FULL SET OF STUDENT NOTES
WHICH ARE VERY DETAILED**



**THE LINK BELOW EACH SET IS HOW TO PURCHASE. CLICK ON LINK
SOME ARE SINGLE LESSONS AND SOME ARE SETS.**

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D QJ98
C K854

c) Pass
d) 4C

ANSWER: PASS. Once again: Misfit? Quit! Unless you have a better hand. With a singleton or void in partner's suit, you really need 16 or more points to bid on after her preempt.

5. Partner opens with 2C. RHO passes. What will you bid with the hand below?

S AQ654
H J6
D J87
C 652

a) 2D
b) 2NT
c) 2S
d) 3NT

ANSWER: Bid 2S. This shows 8 or more HCP and a five-card or longer Spade suit of quality. Next question: If partner now bids 2NT, what will you now bid?

ANSWER: 3NT. Because you have already shown her 8 or more HCP and a five-card Spade suit. Partner would have raised Spades if she had three of them.

6. Partner is the Dealer this time and opens 1NT. Pass by RHO and it is your turn to bid with this hand. What will it be?

S AJ1084
H K1073
D 2
C 765

a) 2H
b) 2C
c) 2NT
d) 3NT
e) 3S

ANSWER: 2C. Stayman. When you are 5-4 in the majors (or 4-5), use Stayman first. If partner bids 2H or 2S, you blissfully go to game in that major. If opener bids 2D next instead (much more likely!), now you must bid 2S. Opener will know that you have five Spades and that you must also have four Hearts or you would simply have transferred right away. You will also be showing 8-9 HCP.

If you had this hand and 10 HCP, your next bid would have been 3S, not 2S. The above assumes you are not playing the Smolen Convention.

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