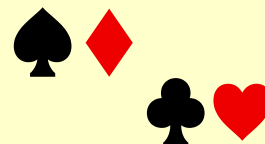


Bridge on Sundays



Doubles

Double 1NT (12-14) for penalties with 15+ points and a reasonably balanced hand. If they try to escape the double, then a further double is for penalties. If you, as the doubler's partner, hold less than 5 points and a 5 card suit, bid that suit rather than leaving the double in.

Doubles of suit opening bids are for take-out, up to 3 spades. This includes weak twos and pre-emptive three bids. A second double of the same suit is usually for penalties and should show a shortage in the opponent's suit or very strong hand.

Example: Opponents open 1♠ and you hold 17 points and a 6 card heart suit. Double first, then bid hearts later.

If opponents have a bid suit which is supported, doubles are for take-out to 3 spades.

If partner opens and is overcalled, a double by you is for take-out. It shows 9+ points and suggests the other two suits but is not limited to having these. You may hold the opponent's suit, intending to bid no-trumps later.

If the opponents bid two suits, then a double shows the other two suits.

If the opponents open with a suit and the responder bids 1NT, a double by you is for penalties with a strong running suit in your hand and entries.

If opponents double partners opening suit and you can support this suit, bid one more in the suit than you would have done had there not been a double.

Example: 1♠, double, 3♠ shows a hand where you would have bid only 2♠