

Mini-Lesson: Negative Doubles

More information: <https://bridge.careytutor.com>

Objective for Mini-Lesson

- Main objectives:
 - Learn how to use a negative double
 - Hand requirements for a negative double
 - Rebids after a negative double
- Secondary objectives:
 - When to use a negative double
 - When not to use a negative double

Recap: Takeout Double

- We talked about **takeout doubles** in a previous mini-lesson.
 - Takeout doubles are made after an opening bid by the opponents.
 - A takeout double indicates opening hand points (13+).
 - A takeout double shows support for the unbid suits, especially unbid major(s).
- A **takeout double** is made to compete for the contract.

Negative Double

- A **negative double** is made after an overcall by the opponents.
 - Example: 1D – 1S – **double**
- A **negative double** indicates 6+ points.
 - More points if partner must bid at the 2 level (8+ points) or 3 level (10+ points)
- A negative double indicates support for the unbid major(s).
 - It usually is made with support for the other unbid suit as well.
 - Alternatively, responder may have support for opener's original suit.
- A **negative double** is made to compete for the contract.

When to Use/Not Use the Negative Double

- Start by assuming a negative double on any overcall up to 2S.
 - More experienced players extend that range to 3S or up to 4H.
 - Expert players often play negative doubles on all overcalls at any level.
- Don't use the negative double without 4-card support for the unbid major.
- With 5+ cards in the unbid major, you may bid the suit directly.
 - Example: 1C – 1H – 1S shows 5+ spades.
 - Example: 1C – 1H – double indicates 4 spades.

Negative Double Example 1

♠98 ♥8764 ♦A982 ♣KJ8



West bids
1S

North
doubles
South bids
1D

East



♠K4 ♥AJ32 ♦KT63 ♣QT3

Negative Double Example 2

♠9852 ♥J764 ♦A2 ♣KJ6



West bids
2C

North
doubles
South bids
1D

East



♠AK ♥AQ82 ♦KT63 ♣QT3

Negative Double Example 3

♠K9852 ♥74 ♦A2 ♣K862



West bids
1H

North
bids 1S
South bids
1C

East



♠QT4 ♥A6 ♦KT6 ♣QJT93

Negative Double Example 4

♠K852 ♥74 ♦AJ32 ♣K62



West bids
2H

North
doubles
South bids
1C

East



♠QT43 ♥AQ ♦KT6 ♣QJT3

Negative Double Example 5

♠K852 ♥Q874 ♦92 ♣K62



West bids
1D

North
doubles
South bids
1C

East



♠QJ43 ♥A5 ♦KT6 ♣QJT3

Summary

- Negative double requirements
 - 6+ points (more at higher levels) plus support for unbid major(s)
- When is a double a negative double?
 - After an opponent overcall up to 2S (or higher, by partnership agreement).
- Rebids by opener after negative doubles
 - Support doubler's proposed suit
 - Rebid opener's own long suit
 - Bid no trump with a stopper in overcaller's suit