Lesson 7a: Practise your Takeout Doubles

Print off and fold down the middle.

1	West	North	East	South
			1♦	?

♠ KQ65
♥ A965
♦ 5
♣ 10985

Pass

You would not open with this hand as it does not satisfy the Rule of 20. With 9 HCP and a singleton in openers suit you are not quite strong enough for a takeout double. With just one more point it would be worth stretching the SOS guidelines and making a takeout double because of the two four card majors.

2	West	North	East	South
			1♥	?

♠ AQ2
♥ J7
♦ Q654
♣ AKJ6

Double
Your hand satisfies SOS, with heart **S**hortage, **O**pening values and 3+ card **S**upport for all three unbid suits.

3	West	North	East	South
			1♦	?

♠ AKQ7
♥ 9752
♦ 72
♣ KJ4

Double
A double gives your best chance of finding an 8 card fit in a major. Do not bid 1♠. Your spades will deliver tricks in a heart contract

4	West	North	East	South
			1♠	?

♠ 2
♥ QJ42
♦ QJ1063
♣ A96

Double
You should try hard to avoid missing a fit in a major. Here doubling rather than bidding 2♦ gives you the best chance of finding a heart fit.

5	West	North	East	South
			1♦	?

♠ J9654
♥ KQ42
♦ 6
♣ AJ8

Double

Your spades are not good enough to overcall 1♠ (SQOT = 6). Doubling for takeout gives you your best chance of finding a fit in a major.

6	West	North	East	South
			1♣	?

♠ KQ65
♥ 76
♦ J854
♣ AKJ

Pass
This hand is the wrong shape for a takeout double. It also doesn't qualify for any sort of overcall, even though it has 14 HCP. It is a good defensive hand.

7	West	North	East	South
			1♦	?

♠ AKJ
♥ KJ63
♦ 93
♣ K842

Double

You are not quite the perfect shape but OK for a double with 15 HCP and at least three cards in all the unbid suits.

8	West	North	East	South
			1♠	?

♠ 6
♥ J10852
♦ AQ8
♣ Q953

Pass
You would not open with this hand (18 on the Rule of 20) and your heart SQOT = 7 so you are a little too weak for a takeout double or a 2♥ overcall.

9	West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ 762
♥ 9854
♦ 875
♣ J98

Answer: 1♥

You must respond to the takeout double even with zero points. Partner will know that you may be very weak. Hopefully West will bid again.

10	West	North	East	South
	1♣	Dbl	2♣	?

♠ J76
♥ QJ84
♦ K952
♣ 73

2♥

After opener's partner makes a bid you are not forced to bid, so bidding 2♥ shows about 6-9 points

11	West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ 762
♥ Q76
♦ Q986
♣ 542

1♥

You have to respond to the double, but since your longest suit is opener's suit you must respond in a three-card suit. **You must not pass!**

12	West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ 74
♥ KJ82
♦ AJ4
♣ J543

2♥

A jump response in a suit after partner's takeout double and a pass by East shows about 9-12 points.

13	West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ A8
♥ 982
♦ KJ976
♣ 765

1NT

With 6-9 points and a diamond stopper you can bid 1NT. If you had 10-12 points you would jump to 2NT, and with 13+ points you could go straight to 3NT.

Note that responses in No Trumps show the same point count ranges as when responding to an opening suit bid. The only difference is the requirement for a stopper.

14	West	North	East	South
	1♦	Dbl	2♦	?

♠ KJ976
♥ Q87
♦ 53
♣ A102

4♠

With 10 points you show an invitational hand. If partner had opened 1♠ you would have bid 3♠.

15	West	North	East	South
	1♥	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ AQJ9
♥ 7652
♦ A65
♣ Q3

4♠

With 13 points and a four card major, you just jump to 4♠. If you are unlucky partner may only have three spades but it is a risk worth taking.

16	West	North	East	South
	1♥	Dbl	Pass	?

♠ 982
♥ KQJ86
♦ 5
♣ K852

Pass

You have 9 HCP so our side has the majority of the Points. With 5+ cards AND 3 honours in opener's suit your hand is good enough to leave the double in, converting it to a penalty double. Bear in mind that opener's hearts are sitting over you, which is why your hearts need to be good.