

OVERCALLS AND DOUBLES EXERCISES

What do you bid with the following hands?

East South (**YOU**)

1H ??????

AKJxx	KJ9xx	Qxxxx	QJx	KJ	Kx
Kx	Qxxx	AJx	xxx	x	QJTxx
Xxxx	Kx	KQx	KQxx	AQJTxx	KJxx
Xx	xx	Ax	AKQ	xxxx	Kx
1.....	2.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6.....

How do you answer partners double, on each of these hands?

West **Partner** East South (**YOU**)

1H X (double) Pass ??????

Qx	Kxxx	xxxx	Kxx	KJxxx	xx
Xxxxx	Kx	x	AQx	x	xx
Xxx	JTxx	xxxx	xx	AQxx	Axx
Jxx	xxx	xxxx	xxxxx	xxx	AKJxxx
7.....	8.....	9.....	10.....	11.....	12.....

You are dealt this dreadful hand, what do you bid (if anything) on the following sequences:

Xx

Kxx

Jxxx

Txxx

	Opponent	Partner	Opponent	You
(13)	1S	X	Pass	??????
(14)	1S	X	2S	??????
(15)		1S	X	Pass
	2C	X	Pass	??????
(16)		1C	Pass	Pass
	1S	X	Pass	??????

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OVERCALLS AND DOUBLES ANSWERS

ANSWERS

1. 1 SPADE. A good 5 card suit.
 2. PASS. Spades are just good enough to bid at the one level, but the length in their suit is a drawback. It is very risky to overcall with length in their suit, unless your hand is very strong, but you are light in points as well.
 3. 1NT. Most descriptive of strength and shape and your spades are not a very strong suit.
 4. DOUBLE. You can't bid no trump without a stopper in their suit, but with 17HCP too good to pass.
 5. 2 DIAMONDS. A lovely diamond suit, but a two level overcall should show about 12 HCP. Your shortage in their suit makes it safe and your suit is very attractive and only 1 point short.
 6. PASS. 13HCP, but your heart length is bad and if you double and your partner bids spades, you only have 2.
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7. 2 CLUBS. As the lesser evil. DO NOT PASS and do not bid 1NT as you have no stopper in their suit. Sometimes you are forced to bid a 3 card suit. All you can do is pray.
 8. 1 SPADE. Forced response, less than 10 points and shows 4+ spades.
 9. 1 SPADE. As above, bid the suit that lets you bid at the cheapest level. DO NOT EVEN DREAM OF PASSING. They would certainly make 1H doubled.
 10. 1 NT. Shows hearts stopped and 6 – 9 HCP.
 11. 4 SPADES. Partner should have 3+ spades for his double, so you know you have a fit, which gives you 13 total points, so bid game.
 12. 3 CLUBS. Since to bid 2 clubs shows no points (you were forced to bid them at the 2 level), you need to jump to 3 clubs to show 10+ points and a good suit.
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13. 2 CLUBS. Bid your cheaper 4 card suit and hope they continue bidding and you don't have to play the hand.
 14. PASS. You are off the hook after the opponents bid.
 15. 2 DIAMONDS OR 2 SPADES. Partners double is for takeout and you are taking it out. This bid of his says "bid any suit but clubs, or take me back to spades", so you could show the diamonds or take him to a 5/2 fit in spades.
 16. 2 CLUBS. You have nothing else to show. You cannot bid 1NT, as you have no spade cover and do not have 6 points. Partner might only have 3 clubs, but that is the best you can do with this lot. Partner and the opponent still have another bid, so it may go further, but whatever partner bids, you will now pass.
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