

## ♠♥♦♣ ANALYZE THE BIDDING ♠♥♦♣

West deals and opens 1♠. East/West are vulnerable. North passes and East responds 1NT. This is your hand. What do you do?:

S	South
♠	7
♥	KQ73
♦	QJ84
♣	A1063

You were going to open 1♦ with this 12 HCP hand, but after West opened your short suit and East didn't support his partner, your hand changes complexion. You probably don't have a game. The opponents probably have about 20 points between them, so you and your partner have a total of 20 points, as well. But you do want to compete for a part score, so you double and give your partner the option of bidding his longest suit.

West passes and your partner bids 2♥. Great! You have a Heart fit and easy 8 tricks, you think. However, now East comes back into the picture with a 2♠ raise and it's back to you. Remembering you have only 20 points, you don't have enough points to drive to the 3-level. You pass, as does West. Now partner doubles!

Here is the bidding so far:

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT	Dbl
Pass	2♥	2♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	??

What do you do now? Do you raise to 3♥? Bid another suit? Pass?

Let's analyze the bidding. Your partner passed 1♠ and so did East. His 1NT could show from 6 to 10 points. That means he doesn't have 3 spades, because with a weak hand, he surely would show his support rather than bid 1NT. His delayed support, then, represents 2 Spades. If West opened with 5 Spades, that means your partner also has 5 Spades. He also has 4 or 5 Hearts, so he is short in the minors. His double couldn't be for take out. It must have been for penalty. He has 5 Spade and they must be good Spades. He is suggesting that there are more points for your side by setting their vulnerable 2♠ contract.

You pass and partner leads the ♥J. You see this dummy:

North's Lead: ♥J

E	East
♠	83
♥	92
♦	AK763
♣	J842

S	South
♠	7
♥	KQ73
♦	QJ84
♣	A1063

You end up taking 3 Spades, 1 Heart and 2 Club tricks, for a 1 trick set. This is worth +200 points. Playing in 3♥ would result in your being set 1 trick for -50. Passing the double was a good decision!

This is the entire deal:

D 16	N North	♠KQ964	♥J1085	♦92	♣Q7
	W West	♠AJ1052	♥A64	♦105	♣K95
	W	N	E	S	E East
	1♠	Pass	1NT	Dbl	♠83
	Pass	2♥	2♠	Pass	♥92
	Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass	♦AK763
	Pass				♣J842
	S South	♠7	♥KQ73	♦QJ84	♣A1063
					2♣x West 0 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxtmpfal>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.