

## Bridge Without Thinking

Prepare for common awkward situations, so that you know what to do at the table without having to agonise.

### Example

North-South vulnerable, dealer West

♠5432 ♥432 ♦432 ♣432

West	North	East	South
1♠	Double	Pass	?

You might think of various calls:

Pass	Could be our cheapest minus
2♣	Make the lowest bid and hope for the best
2♥	Partner is more likely to have hearts than any other suit
1NT	Can't bid a three-card suit

You're probably going to end up bidding 2♣, so you might as well decide in advance that the cheapest suit bid over partner's takeout double can be a three-card suit and a blizzard.

It gets worse

North-South vulnerable, dealer West

♠5432 ♥432 ♦432 ♣432

West	North	East	South
1♠	Double	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	?

What now?

Pass	Could still be our cheapest minus
3♣	Make the lowest bid and hope for the best
3♥	I didn't bid hearts last time, so I can't have four
2NT	Can't rebid a three-card suit

Here you might consider using a method, if you don't have one already. Besides, it's fun to tell the opponents "we play haddock" – at least, that's what it will sound like. What you actually play is HADAC – Herbert After Double And Cuebid. The idea is that in sequences like this, responder's cheapest suit bid is merely a negative – other bids show that the first one was more or less genuine and based on a few values.