

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0126:  
"Beware the 'Snapdragon' and the 'L-D' DOUBLES"**

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>**

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

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As noted in the "Esther Bridge Lessons Convention Lesson #14: 7 **Not-For-Penalty DOUBLES**":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/double.pdf>

**"Back in the days when we used to play 'human' (in-person) bridge, before the pandemic, in the Savannah Bridge Center, before the Savannah Bridge Center burned down, there used to be an annual or semi-annual game in which Clubs across the country played the same Boards, and for which a printed booklet was prepared ahead of time in which a famous bridge player, Larry Cohen, commented on each hand in the 24 Boards, and indicated what each player should bid on each hand. Larry Cohen, according to Wikipedia, 'is an American bridge player, writer and teacher. He is best known as an advocate for the 'Law of Total Tricks' as a guide in the bidding. He has won 25 North American Bridge Championships (NABC) events...' In the booklet for a recent competition in this venue, Cohen included the suggested bid of DOUBLE on roughly 1 in every 5 of the *randomly-generated* Boards. The implication of this pattern on 24 randomly-generated Boards is that your Partnership bidding in every game should probably include 2 to 4 bids of DOUBLE! If you are a less experienced player, *you probably are not making enough not-for-penalty DOUBLES!!!*"**

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<sup>1</sup> As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, [https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA\\_1\\_24.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf), Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

NORTH (11)

**S:** T  
**H:** A K J 9 8  
**D:** Q J 7  
**C:** 9 5 3 2

WEST (11)

**S:** A Q J 9 2  
**H:** Q 5 4 3  
**D:** 6  
**C:** Q 6 4

EAST (11)

**S:** K 8 7 3  
**H:** 7  
**D:** 8 5 2  
**C:** A K J T 8

SOUTH (7)

**S:** 6 5 4  
**H:** T 6 2  
**D:** A K T 9 4 3  
**C:** 7

**Bidding**

NORTH

1**H**

EAST

2**C**

SOUTH

2**D**

WEST

???

1. Sitting **4<sup>th</sup>** within the auction as **WEST** what would you bid on this Board at your **1<sup>st</sup>** turn to bid?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0126 a1.pdf>