The Top 5 Errors in Bridge

#5) Failure to support w/ support. Happens most when partner overcalls.

(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
♠K32	♠A54	♠53	♠Q1082
♥53	♥84	♥A865	♥Q32
♦K1076	♦K10765	♦KJ6	♦A876
♣8752	♣J42	♣8764	♣32
(1♣) 1♠ (X) ?	(1♥) 2♣ (P) ?	2♦ (P) ?	1♥ (P) ?

#4) Defensive ace-grabbing. Aces are meant to capture kings (in general, don't lead them or shift to them). Second-hand Low! The underlined card is led.

	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
Dummy:	♠KJ	♠Q102	♠K32	♠Q54
	♠A32	♠A54	♠A106	♠A92
Declarer:	♠7	♠??	♠4	♠??

In all cases, it is dangerous for defender to grab his ace.

#3) Takeout double with a doubleton in a side suit.

A takeout double followed by a voluntary bid by the doubler shows a big hand—approximately 18 points. With that in mind, be wary of making a takeout double unless you have support for all the unbid suits. Otherwise, your partner will invariably take out to the suit in which you have a doubleton—and then what? Correcting would show 18+.

(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)
♠K32	♠KJ4	♠AK53	♠KQ9
♥K3	♥AK8	♥5	♥A2
♦A1076	♦J5	♦Q632	♦K876
♣K752	♣J6542	♣AJ64	♣KQ32
(1♠) ?	(1♠) ?	(1♠) ?	(1♠) ?

#2) Failure to reach game when responder has an opening bid.

If partner shows opening bid values and you have opening bid values, make sure your side reaches game. Never make a NF bid below the game level.

(M)	(N)	(O)	(P)
♠ K32	♠ QJ4	♠ AQ3	♠ KQ76
♥ AQ4	♥ K84	♥ 85	♥ AQ87
♦ 1076	♦ AQ6	♦ AJ432	♦ J3
♣ A752	♣ Q942	♣ AJ4	♣ A42
1♠ (2♣) ?	1♣ (1♠) ?	(2♥) 2♠ (P) ?	1♣ (P) 1♥ (P) 1♠ (P) ?

#1) Cherry picking instead of planning. "Don't take first 9 in 3NT—take any 9."

Dlr South
Vul Both

Q

NORTH
♠ 762
♥ AQ6
♦ J872
♣ 852

WEST
♠ J983
♥ J10983
♦ A63
♣ J

EAST
♠ 105
♥ 52
♦ K954
♣ Q10976

SOUTH
♠ AKQ4
♥ K74
♦ Q10
♣ AK43

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
--	--	--	2NT
Pass	3NT	(All Pass)	

West leads the ♥J. A "cherry-picker" wins and works on the black suits.

Dlr South
Vul None

R

NORTH
♠ AJ2
♥ J108
♦ AK763
♣ 76

WEST
♠ 1097
♥ 642
♦ 92
♣ AKJ83

EAST
♠ KQ86
♥ 3
♦ QJ108
♣ 10942

SOUTH
♠ 543
♥ AKQ975
♦ 54
♣ Q5

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
--	--	--	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♥ (All pass)		

West cashes two clubs and switches to the ♠10. A "cherry picker" draws trump, prematurely depleting dummy's entries to the diamonds.