

**Deal 1**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ J 10 9 6 2

♥ 8 5 3

♦ K J 3

♣ J 6

♠ 7 4

♥ A K 4

♦ 10 9 8 4

♣ 10 8 4 2



♠ K 5

♥ Q J 9 7 2

♦ A Q 6

♣ 9 7 3

♠ A Q 8 3

♥ 10 6

♦ 7 5 2

♣ A K Q 5

6  
7 12  
15

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 ♠

2 ♥

1 ♣

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 ♠

3 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ Q

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ Q, dummy played the ♥ 6 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Your side needs to take 5 tricks to defeat this contract. Two of them will be ♥s, but it doesn't look like you can win any ♣s or ♠s.

That means you need to win 3 ♦ tricks and the only way that can happen is if you play ♦s from your side.

So win the first ♥ K (so partner will know you also have the ♥ A), and play the ♦ T. Presumably North will play an honor, but East will take the trick and put you back on lead with your ♥ A. You play the ♦ 9 and your side will collect 3 ♦ tricks to go

with your 2 ♥s.

**Deal 2**

West Deals  
None Vul

♠ J 3  
♥ K Q J 6  
♦ A K Q 10 5  
♣ 6 2

2  
16 8  
14

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	1 ♠
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
4 ♥ by East			
Lead: ♠ A			

♠ 10  
♥ 7 3 2  
♦ 9 8 6 3  
♣ Q 7 5 4 3



♠ 9 7 5 2  
♥ A 10 9 5 4  
♦ J  
♣ K 10 8  
♠ A K Q 8 6 4  
♥ 8  
♦ 7 4 2  
♣ A J 9

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠ A, then the ♠ K. Dummy follows suit and it is your play to the second trick.

When you have made your choice

It is obvious that your side can only get 2 ♠ tricks. And assuming that East has the Ace of trumps you will not make a single trick in the red suits. So you need to make 2 ♣ tricks.

If partner has the ♣ A K then he will take them, but if he has the ♣ A J he cannot win 2 ♣ tricks from his side.

To allow for this situation it will be better to play ♣s from your side of the table, and the way to make that happen is for you to ruff partner's ♠ K with an

otherwise useless trump. You still get your two ♠ winners (sort of) but now you get to play a ♣ through East's ♣ K at trick 3.

**Deal 3**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ 9 7 5 2  
♥ 8 2  
♦ 10 7 6 4 3  
♣ K 7

14  
3 10  
13

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 8

♠ A 10 4  
♥ J 6 3  
♦ A K 8 2  
♣ Q 10 5



♠ K Q 6  
♥ Q 10 4  
♦ J  
♣ A J 9 8 4 2

North

1 ♦

3 ♣

Pass

East

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

3 NT

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ 8, dummy played the ♥ J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

South played dummy's ♥ J to tempt you to cover. Don't fall for it.

Partner's lead of a high spot card shows no honors in the suit. That added to the fact that South bid Notrump after you had mentioned ♥s is pretty good evidence that South holds at least ♥ Q x x.

To maintain communication with partner your best hope is to duck the first ♥, but to signal encouragement with the ♥ 9.

South wins the first trick easily, but must try to establish ♣s. He will enter dummy

with the ♠ A, then try to run the ♣ Q.

Not today. Partner takes the ♣ K and returns his ♥ 2 to your four winners.

**Deal 4**

West Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 10 7 5  
♥ A 8 2  
♦ K Q  
♣ K 8 7 4

8  
16 12  
4

West  
1 NT  
2 ♠  
Pass  
4 ♠ by West  
Lead: ♣ 9

♠ K 6 2  
♥ 10 6 4  
♦ A J 6 5 4  
♣ 9 2



♠ 8 4  
♥ 9 7 3  
♦ 10 8 7 2  
♣ A 6 5 3

North  
Pass  
Pass  
Pass

East  
2 ♣  
4 ♠

South  
Pass  
Pass

♠ Q J 9 3  
♥ K Q J 5  
♦ 9 3  
♣ Q J 10

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ 9, dummy played the ♣ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Partner's ♣ 9 is likely from a short suit. If it is a singleton, you should take the ♣ A immediately and return the suit for a ruff. If it is a doubleton, you should NOT take your ♣ A now, but should hope partner can get the lead and play his second ♣ to your Ace so you can give him the ruff.

You can figure out which it is.

If it is a singleton, then West must hold 5 ♣s. But you know West has 4 ♠s, so if he also has 5 ♣s then he only has 4 red cards, and he would not have opened

1 NT with either 5-4-2-2 or 5-4-3-1 distribution.

So partner's ♣ 9 is not a singleton, and you should wait. Declarer then runs dummy's ♠ Q. Partner wins the ♠ K, returns his OTHER ♣ to your ♣ A, and NOW you give him the ruff. He takes the ♦ A for down 1.

**Deal 5**

West Deals  
None Vul

♠ Q J 9 7  
♥ K Q 6 5 3  
♦ 10  
♣ A 6 4

20  
12 3  
5

West  
1 ♥  
Pass  
Pass  
3 NT by North  
Lead: ♥ 10

♠ A K 4  
♥ A 7 4  
♦ A K 7 3  
♣ Q 5 2



♠ 6 5 2  
♥ J 9 8  
♦ 9 5  
♣ K J 10 9 7

North

Dbl  
2 NT  
Pass

East

Pass  
Pass  
Pass

South

2 ♣  
3 NT

The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥T, dummy played the ♥J and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

Declarer gets two ♥ winners whether you play one of your honors on this trick or not. So why does it matter what you do?

Suppose you cover with your ♥Q. North will win his ♥A, then play ♣s until your ♣A is forced out on the third round. He can then force an entry to dummy in the ♥ suit to reach the two ♣ winners.

Now suppose you duck the ♥J. Again North will push ♣s, and again you hold up until the third round. Ahh, what a difference. Now declarer cannot use the ♥s to enter dummy and he will never get

to enjoy those two ♣ winners.