

Deal 1
South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 9 7
♥ Q 6 5 2
♦ 10 6 4
♣ 7 5

13
3 8
16

West North East South
Pass 3 NT Pass 1 NT
Pass
3 NT by South
Lead: ♠J

♠ A Q 4
♥ K 8 3
♦ K 9 5
♣ J 6 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ 8 2
♥ J 10 9
♦ A J 7 2
♣ Q 10 9 8

♠ K 6 5 3
♥ A 7 4
♦ Q 8 3
♣ A K 4

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♠J, won by dummy's ♠Q. The ♦5 is now played from dummy. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

Considering that South opened 1 NT, he must have the ♦Q for this play to make sense.

So if you put on your ♦A, South will have TWO ♦ winners established. If instead you play low, then South cannot get a second ♦ trick and will have to look elsewhere for his ninth trick. As you can see, he is not going to be able to find it.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 4
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J 10 9 3

19
2 5
14

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	6 ♥	ALL	Pass
6 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♣ J			

♠ A 6

♥ K 9 3

♦ A Q J 7 4

♣ K Q 7

♠ 10 4

♥ J 10 5 4

♦ 9 6 3

♣ J 10 9 3

♠ K Q J 8 2

♥ A 8 7 6 2

♦ 8

♣ A 2

N

W S E

S

♠ 9 7 5 3

♥ Q

♦ K 10 5 2

♣ 8 6 5 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

Your lead of the ♣ J was won by South with the ♣ A. South then played the ♥ 2 and you must decide whether to split your honors.

When you have made your choice

South's bidding showed at least 5 ♥s, so assuming he holds both the ♥ A Q, it would be silly for him to finesse the ♥ 9 on the first trump play.

As it turns out, when you play low South calls for dummy's ♥ K, East's ♥ Q falls and you now have 2 trump tricks. If you had played the ♥ T you would have tossed away the setting trick.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 6 4
♥ K
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q 7 5

9 7
16 8

N
W E
S

♠ K 7
♥ J 8 6 3 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 4 2

♠ Q 9 8 3 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 9 3

♠ A 5
♥ A 10 9 7 5
♦ A Q J
♣ J 8 6

West *North* *East* *South*

Pass 4 ♥ Pass Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ K

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♣ K, and you played the ♣ 9 to encourage him. He continued with the ♣ Q, then a small card to your ♣ A. You then exit with the ♦ T, taken by dummy's ♦ K.

Declarer then calls for the ♥ J. Do you cover with your ♥ Q or not?

When you have made your choice

North has 5 ♥s and South must have at least 5. The reason you cover an Honor is that you hope to establish a lower card in either your hand or partner's hand. But your partner has one ♥ at the most so there is no hope of establishment.

Now that you have looked at the hands aren't you glad you didn't cover?

Deal 4

South Deals	♠ A 10 5
None Vul	♥ Q 6 3
	♦ 8 7 4 2
	♣ J 8 5
♠ K J 3	♠ 8 6
♥ J 10 8 5	♥ A K 7 2
♦ 10 6	♦ 9 5 3
♣ 9 7 6 4	♣ Q 10 3 2

7	♠ Q 9 7 4 2
5 9	♥ 9 4
19	♦ A K Q J
	♣ A K

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ J

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♥ J, covered by dummy's ♥ Q and won by East's ♥ K. East wins the ♥ A at the second trick and continues with a small ♥ ruffed by South.

South then plays the ♠ 4 from his hand. Do you play low? or play the ♠ J to force dummy's ♠ A?

When you have made your choice

If South decides to finesse the ♠ T then you will still win the one ♠ trick which you are entitled to win.

However, with South holding the ♠ Q it would be very logical for him to go up with the ♠ A then lead back toward his

♠ Q, playing East for the ♠ K. If he plays this way you will get two tricks and defeat the contract.

Deal 5

South Deals	♠ K 7 4
None Vul	♥ A J 10
	♦ Q J 4
	♣ Q J 10 7
♠ 9 5 3	♠ Q J 6 2
♥ 9 8 7 2	♥ 6 5 3
♦ 8 6 5 3	♦ 9 7 2
♣ K 6	♣ 5 4 3

	N
W	E
S	

14	♠ A 10 8
3 3	♥ K Q 4
20	♦ A K 10
	♣ A 9 8 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			2 NT
6 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 9			

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥ 9, taken by dummy's ♥T. The ♠ 4 is then played from dummy. Do you play low? or split your honors?

When you have made your choice

You should always make a point count check as soon as you see dummy. South's 2 NT promises 20 or 21 points, North has 14 and you have 3; total = 37 or 38. Therefore West must have either 2 or 3 points. He cannot have two Jacks because you can see all four of them. Likewise he cannot have a Queen because you can see three of them and his ♥ lead (top of nothing) denied that Queen.

It follows that West MUST have a King, and it must be ♣s or ♦s since he has denied any ♥ Honor.

Since West will definitely win his King, you need to take one trick yourself, and the best way to do that is to split your Honors to establish one ♠ winner.

South has no defense to this, but if you had played low he would have played the ♠T and made the slam.

Deal 6

South Deals	♠ K J 5
None Vul	♥ Q 7 4
	♦ 10 7 2
	♣ A J 9 5
♠ 10 9 8 2	♠ 7 6 3
♥ 9 6 3 2	♥ K J 10
♦ 5 3	♦ K J 9 6
♣ K Q 4	♣ 10 7 2

$\begin{matrix} & 11 \\ 5 & 8 \\ & 16 \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} \spadesuit A Q 4 \\ \heartsuit A 8 5 \\ \diamondsuit A Q 8 4 \\ \clubsuit 8 6 3 \end{matrix}$
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West	North	East	South
			1 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ 10			

dummy's ♣ 9, finessing West for the ♠ T. This is because ♣ K T or ♣ Q T are twice as likely as ♣ K Q.

If he does play this way East will win the ♠ T and your ♣ K Q will get one more trick.

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠ T; low cards from North and East, won by South with the ♠ A.

South next plays the ♣ 3 and you must decide whether to split your ♣ K Q.

When you have made your choice

If you split your Honors, playing the ♣ Q perhaps, dummy's ♣ A will take the trick and South will later play through your ♣ K toward dummy's ♣ J 9 5. Played in this way he will establish 3 ♣ winners (which he needs for the contract).

If you play low, he MIGHT finesse the ♣ J and again establish 3 ♣ winners. But South's correct play would be to put on