

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 10 4 2
♥ 9 8 5
♦ 10 9 7
♣ A 4

14
9 4
13

West

1 ♠

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ K

♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2



♠ A J 5
♥ K Q
♦ Q J 8
♣ 10 9 8 5 3

North

3 ♣

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♣

3 NT

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ K, East played the ♠ 7 and South the ♠ 5.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You can see the ♠ 6, ♠ 5, ♠ 4, ♠ 3 and ♠ 2. So the ♠ 7 is East's lowest ♠, he is doing his best to discourage you from leading the suit again.

South held up with ♠ A J x, hoping you would play the suit again and give him two tricks.

If you play the ♦ T East will win the ♦ A and return a ♠, allowing you to drive out South's ♠ A while you still have the ♣ A for an entry.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

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

♠ 6 3
♥ A J 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ K Q J 6 2



	♠ A 9 8		
	♥ K Q		
	♦ Q J 8		
	♣ 10 9 8 5 3		
14			
9 5			
12			
West	North	East	South
1 ♠	3 ♣	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 NT
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ K			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ K, East played the ♠ 7 and South the ♠ 8.

What do you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

You cannot see the ♠ 5. The most likely reason is that East has it, and his ♠ 7 is an encouraging signal. The only reason he would encourage you is if he held either the ♠ A or ♠ J.

Together, you two continue to play ♠s to drive out South's ♠ A. When you get the lead with your ♣ A you will cash your ♠ winners and East will still have the ♦ A for some icing on the cake.

There IS another possibility if South is a better than average Declarer. East just might hold ♠ 9 7, giving South ♠ A J 8 5. South played the ♠ 8 as a falsecard to tempt you into playing the suit again. This isn't too likely, but if it happens just congratulate South for the fine play.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10 7 2

♥ K J 8 3

♦ Q 8 6

♣ J 4

♠ 5 4

♥ 6 4

♦ J 7 3

♣ A K Q 6 5 3



♠ K 8 6 3

♥ Q 10

♦ 10 9 5 4 2

♣ 8 2

♠ Q J 9

♥ A 9 7 5 2

♦ A K

♣ 10 9 7

11
10 5
14

West

North

East

South

2 ♣

3 ♣

Pass

1 ♥

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♥

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A, dummy played the ♣ 4 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

West will play the ♣ Q on which you will play the ♣ 2.

West now knows you started with a doubleton, and more importantly, he also knows you want him to play a third ♣.

When he next plays the ♣ K dummy will ruff, but whatever card he ruffs with you will have established a trump trick. When you later win your ♠ K that will be down 1.

Deal 4

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 3
 ♥ J 8 4 3
 ♦ K J 9 5 2
 ♣ 8 2

5
 5 8
 22

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♦ 5

♠ J 8 4

♥ 7 6 2

♦ 8 4

♣ K J 9 6 5



♠ A K 5

♥ A K Q 5

♦ A 10 6

♣ Q 10 3

North

2 ♦

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♣

2 NT

Pass

♠ Q 10 9 6 2

♥ 10 9

♦ Q 7 3

♣ A 7 4

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♦ 5, East wins the ♦ Q and returns the ♦ 7. South holds up his ♦ A until the third round. He then plays the ♣ Q and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You assume (hope) that East holds the ♣ A. If he does then he will need help from you to decide which trick he should win. You play the ♣ 8 first, and the ♣ 2 next to show an even number.

If East is paying attention he will know to win the THIRD ♣. This will kill dummy's ♣ suit, and with it South's chance of making 9 tricks.

Deal 5

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J 7 6 5 2
♥ 3
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A K 10 5

14
8 8
10

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

♠ A

♥ K 10 8 2

♦ A Q 7 3

♣ J 8 6 2



♠ K 9 3

♥ A 7 6 5 4

♦ J 8

♣ Q 7 4

North

1 ♦

2 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A, dummy played the ♣ 2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you signal with the ♣ 9 West will continue with the ♣ K and another which you will have to ruff. You will give up your NATURAL trump trick by doing so. Worse, you will allow North's ♣ J to be established as a winner that South can later discard a ♦ on.

Much better to play low. Partner will surely switch to a ♦, and South will probably finesse, though it doesn't matter whether he does or not. You will win the ♦ K, return the ♣ 9 back to West's ♣ K, and still have your trump trick for later.

Deal 6

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A K Q 10 7

♥ 10 9

♦ 9 7 2

♣ K 8 4

7
12 3
18

West

1 ♠

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ A

♠ J 6 4 2

♥ J 6 3

♦ A J 6

♣ 10 7 3



♠ 8 5

♥ A K Q 8 7 2

♦ K 5 4

♣ A Q

North

2 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

♠ 9 3

♥ 5 4

♦ Q 10 8 3

♣ J 9 6 5 2

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ A, East plays the ♠ 9, South the ♠ 5. You assume East has signaled you to continue ♠s, so you play the ♠ Q. On this trick East plays the ♠ 3 and South the ♠ 8. How will you continue?

When you have made your choice

You might just switch suits, but you have a better choice.

If you play your ♠ Q, East won't bother ruffing, South WILL ruff and dummy's ♠ J will be established as a winner.

The best procedure is to lead a low ♠. East will ruff and South will over-ruff but by playing this way you stop the establishment of North's ♠ J. As you can

see, South would have been able to discard a loser on that ♠ J if you hadn't played this way.

Deal 7

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 6 3
 ♥ Q J 10 7
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ 8 3

6
 6 9
 19

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ Q

♠ J 8

♥ 9 6 2

♦ K Q 10 9 4

♣ 9 7 5



♠ Q 7 4

♥ A K 4

♦ J 6

♣ A K Q 10 4

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

2 NT

Pass

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ Q, you played low and South won the ♥ A.

South now plays the ♦ J on which West plays the ♦ 2. What do you play now, and what is your plan.

When you have made your choice

North hoped his ♦ suit would provide enough tricks to make the game. You can see that there is no entry to the North hand EXCEPT in ♦s, so you want to win your ♦ A on the trick that South plays his last ♦. How can you tell which trick that is?

Only by watching what West plays. On the ♦ J West played the ♦ 2, a low card signaling that he held an ODD number of

♦s. ODD must be either one or three so when he followed to the next ♦ you know he started with three. A little bit of counting tells you that South started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

This defense holds South to one ♦ tricks, if you had let him win the second one he would have had 9 tricks.

Deal 8

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 6 5
♥ Q 10 6 4
♦ K 7 2
♣ 10 5 2

7
9 5
19

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 4

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ Q 6
♣ 9 7 6 4



♠ J 10 4
♥ A K
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ A K Q J

North

1 ♠

3 NT

East

Pass

Pass

♠ 8 7 2
♥ J 9 5 2
♦ A 8 4 3
♣ 8 3

South

1 ♣

2 NT

Pass

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, East plays the ♥ J, won by South with ♥ A.

South plays the ♠ J, you follow with ♠ 5, dummy ♠ 3 and East plays the ♠ 2. South continues with the ♠ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♠ 2 tells you he had an ODD number of ♠s, obviously 3. Since South also must have 3, you must take your ♠ A on the third round, depriving dummy of the extra ♠ trick.

South may now turn to the ♦ suit, but your side can win the first ♦ and drive out South's ♥ K. You will win 2 ♥s, 2 ♦s and the ♠ A, down 1

Deal 9

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 4
♥ A 8 7 5 2
♦ 7 5 2
♣ 6 4 2

13
4 8
15

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 5

♠ K J 6
♥ J 10 6 3
♦ A Q 6
♣ Q 10 5



♠ A Q 10 5
♥ K Q 9 4
♦ K J
♣ 8 7 3

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

♠ 9 7 3 2
♥ —
♦ 10 9 8 4 3
♣ A K J 9

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ 5, dummy played the ♥ T and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You really want West to lead a ♣ if he gets into the lead. If you discard the ♣ 9 West will surely get the message and will lead a ♣. BUT - you will only win 3 ♣ tricks. The ♣ 9 would have been the fourth winner.

So instead, play a low card in one of the other suits, say the ♦ 3.

South is one trick short and he sees he can easily get that trick in ♥s. So he plays a second ♥ from dummy and you now discard the ♠ 2. West takes the ♥ A and he can see that you don't want him to lead a

♠ or a ♦. He deduces that you might like a ♣ so he plays his ♣ 2 and you win 4 tricks.

Deal 10

East Deals

None Vul

♠ 6 5 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J 8 6 4 2
 ♣ J 9 4 3

12
 2 8
 18

West

North

East

South

Pass

3 ♠

2 ♥

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♥ 4

♠ K J 7
 ♥ Q J 2
 ♦ Q 10 3
 ♣ K 10 7 5



♠ A Q 10 9 4 2
 ♥ K 8 5
 ♦ A K
 ♣ Q 8

♠ 8
 ♥ A 10 9 7 6 3
 ♦ 9 7 5
 ♣ A 6 2

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, East takes the ♥ A and returns the ♥ 3. You ruff and then play what???

When you have made your choice

Partner played the ♥ 3, a low card, for you to ruff. That means his re-entry, if he has one, is in the lower-ranking suit.

Partner takes the ♣ A and gives you a second ♥ ruff.

Deal 11

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 7 5 2

♥ Q 4

♦ 9 6 3

♣ K 9 6

♠ J 8 6 3

♥ 10 6

♦ A K 8 4

♣ 8 7 2



♠ 10 9 4

♥ 9 5 3

♦ Q 7 2

♣ A Q J 4

♠ A

♥ A K J 8 7 2

♦ J 10 5

♣ 10 5 3

10
8 9
13

West North East South

Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥

Pass Pass Pass 2 ♥

2 ♥ by South

Lead: ♦ A

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♦ A, dummy played the ♦ 3 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

You know partner also has the ♦ K, and normally you would give an encouraging signal when you hold the Queen. But with this hand you want partner to switch to ♣s as soon as possible. So you play a low ♦.

West looks at your signal, then looks at dummy, then looks at your signal. He knows you want a switch and it looks like a switch to ♣s might work the best. South plays a low ♣ from dummy, you win the ♣ J. Next you play a low ♦, taken by West with his ♦ K. West leads a ♣. Dummy plays the ♣ K, you win that, cash another

♣, then cash your ♦ Q. That first signal led to your side winning the first 6 tricks. Wow.

Deal 12

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 6 4
♥ A K 7 2
♦ A 8 6 3
♣ 9 5

10
11 6
13

♠ A 10 3
♥ 10 6
♦ 9 7 2
♣ K Q J 3 2



♠ K Q J 7 5 2
♥ 9 5
♦ K 5
♣ A 10 4

♠ 8
♥ Q J 8 4 3
♦ Q J 10 4
♣ 8 7 6

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
4 ♠ by South			
Lead: ♥ A			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ A, East puts on the ♥ Q. It's your play.

When you have made your choice

East's ♥ Q is either a singleton, (practically impossible), or a signal showing that he also holds the ♥ J. In either case you can reach the East hand on the second trick by playing a low ♥. Since you don't particularly want to start playing ♦s from your side, you go ahead and play a small ♥, won by East with the ♥ J.

East next plays the ♦ Q and however South tries it your side will take the next two ♦ tricks and set the contract.

Deal 13

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 8 7 4
♥ 6 3
♦ A K 9 6
♣ 9 5 3

9
10 6
15

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♦ A

♠ J 5
♥ A Q 9 8 7 5
♦ 5 2
♣ Q 10 4



♠ A Q
♥ J 10 4
♦ 10 7 4 3
♣ A K J 2

North

2 ♦

4 ♥

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 NT

2 ♥

Pass

♠ 10 9 6 3 2
♥ K 2
♦ Q J 8
♣ 8 7 6

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. West led the ♦ A, dummy played the ♦ 2 and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

As soon as dummy appears you can see 3 tricks for your side. Partner surely has the ♦ K to go with his Ace and you have a certain trump trick. However, that's all you can see.

Your best hope is that West may be able to win a ♠ trick, and it may be important for the first ♠ lead to come from your side of the table.

Your ♦ Q play informs partner that you also have the ♦ J, giving him the option of underleading his ♦ K to get to your hand.

West next plays a small ♦ which you win with your ♦ J. You return the ♠ T. This establishes West's ♠ K before South can pull trumps and discard one of dummy's ♠s on his fourth ♣.

Deal 14

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 9 6 5 2

♥ A Q 10 6

♦ 9 5 4 2

♣ —

8
7 8
17

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 5

♠ 7

♥ 5 3 2

♦ 7 3

♣ A K J 9 6 4 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A K Q 3

♥ K 9 8

♦ A J 10

♣ 10 8 5

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ 5, East plays the ♠ T and South wins the ♠ K. To the second trick South plays the ♣ T and you must discard something.

When you have made your choice

You know that East has no high ♠ honor or he would have played it to the first trick. So South has the ♠ A Q left, plus all those ♣ tricks. You need to have West switch to a ♥ if possible.

East must be expecting to lead a ♠ back when he wins the ♣ Q which you hope he holds. Your ♠ J discard may make him rethink. If your ♠s were any good why would you be discarding a winner when all you had to do was toss a small red card?

Hopefully East will come to the conclusion that this is Suit Preference for a ♥ return and will play his ♥ J. Hopefully.

Deal 15

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A K Q 7 3
♥ 4
♦ 10 6 5 3
♣ 10 7 2

8
9 5
18

West

1 ♠
Pass
4 ♥ by South
Lead: ♠ A

♠ 9 6 2
♥ K 10 6 3
♦ Q 9 4
♣ Q J 4



♠ J 8 5
♥ A Q J 8 7 5 2
♦ A K
♣ K

North

2 ♥
Pass

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♥
4 ♥

♠ 10 4
♥ 9
♦ J 8 7 2
♣ A 9 8 6 5 3

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♠A, dummy played the ♠2 and you signal with your ♠T. West next plays the ♠Q and you drop the ♠4, completing your doubleton signal. West then plays the ♠K and it turns out you don't have to ruff after all. So what are you going to play?

When you have made your choice

This should be a clear enough signal for West to play a ♣ to your ♣A next.

An alternate play, just as good, would be for you to ruff the good ♠Q and play the ♣A yourself.

If you don't get your ♣ trick at trick 4 you will never get it. South will discard his ♣K on North's extra ♦ winner.

Deal 16

South Deals

None Vul

♠ Q J 9 8 6 3

♥ Q 7 2

♦ Q 8 4

♣ J

♠ 10

♥ 9 6 4 3

♦ 9 7 5

♣ K Q 10 6 3



♠ 2

♥ A K J

♦ J 10 6 3 2

♣ A 9 7 2

♠ A K 7 5 4

♥ 10 8 5

♦ A K

♣ 8 5 4

8
5 13
14

West

North

East

South

1 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ K

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ K, dummy's singleton was played and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

West will look at your ♣ 9 and perhaps think for an instant that you want him to play another ♣.

But it will be a short instant because a look at dummy makes in absolutely clear to everybody that playing another ♣ could not help your side. Dummy has so many trumps that repeated ♣ leads would do nothing.

OK. If it's not an encouraging Attitude signal, what is it? Suit preference of course. Since it is a high spot card you are asking West to switch to the higher suit

(choosing between ♦s and ♥s).

West dutifully plays a ♥ and you take the next three tricks. Had he switched to a ♦ instead, South would have been able to discard one of his ♥ losers on North's ♦ Q.

Deal 17

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 10 6

♥ A K Q 4

♦ Q 10 3

♣ Q J 2

♠ 5

♥ 9 7 3

♦ A 8 7

♣ A K 9 8 6 4



♠ 8 3

♥ J 10 6 2

♦ K J 9 5 4 2

♣ 3

♠ K Q J 9 7 4 2

♥ 8 5

♦ 6

♣ 10 7 5

18

11 5

6

West

North

East

South

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ A

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♣ A. Seeing your ♣ 3 he next played the ♦ A. What will you play on this trick?

When you have made your choice

Normally with this holding you would play the ♦ 9 to encourage West to play a second ♦ through dummy's ♦ Q T.

But this time you really want him to take his ♣ K. So play the discouraging ♦ 2 and hope he gets the message to go back to ♣s. If he does play the ♣ K next it will win and he can then give you a ♣ ruff.

Deal 18

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 8 5
♥ K Q 8 5 3
♦ 9 6 2
♣ J 4

8
6 6
20

West

North

East

South

Pass

3 NT

Pass

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 5

♠ 6 4 2

♥ 9 6 4

♦ K Q 8 3

♣ K 7 3



♠ J 10 7 3

♥ J 7 2

♦ 10 7 5

♣ A 9 5

♠ A K Q

♥ A 10

♦ A J 4

♣ Q 10 8 6 2

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♥ 5, you put on the ♥ J, South won with the ♥ A. The second trick was ♦ A, ♦ 2, ♦ 3, ♦ 5. The third trick was ♦ J, ♦ 6, ♦ 8, ♦ 7. South then put the ♣ Q on the table.

When you have made your choice

Does it look to you like South is trying to create an entry to dummy so he can cash the 2 ♦ winners? That's what he wants it to look like, hoping someone holds up their ♣ A.

But don't believe Declarer, believe your partner. On the first ♦ West played the ♦ 2. On the second ♦ he played the ♦ 6. He has an odd number of ♦s, obviously 3. And South must also have a third one, so he is up to some trickery with that ♣ Q.

So grab your ♣ A and return partner's ♥ suit.

Deal 19

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 7 5
♥ 9 7 4 2
♦ 8 6 2
♣ 7 6 5 2

17
0 7
16

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♠ by South

Lead: ♠ 5

♠ K 9 8 6 4

♥ A 6

♦ Q J 3

♣ A K 9



♠ A Q J 2

♥ J 10 3

♦ A K 10

♣ J 10 3

North

2 ♥

5 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 NT

2 ♠

6 ♠

♠ 10 3
♥ K Q 8 5
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ Q 8 4

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. The 2 ♥ bid was a transfer. The 5 NT bid meant to choose either 6 ♠ or 6 NT. South liked the suit. Partner led the ♠ 5, won by South's ♠ Q. South pulls one more trump with his ♠ A, then wins three high ♦s. Next comes dummy's ♥ A on which he plays the ♥ 3 and West plays the ♥ 9. Then he leads dummy's ♥ 6 which you win with the ♥ Q. On this trick South drops the ♥ J and West the ♥ 2. It is your play.

When you have made your choice

If you believe South is now out of ♥s then you should not play your ♥ K because it would give him a ruff-sluff.

But you shouldn't believe South when your partner has sent you a clear signal that he holds an EVEN number of ♥s. In

this case an even number must be 4 which means that South has one more ♥. So you play your ♥ K. He ruffs in dummy of course, but then has no way to get rid of that ♣ loser when the finesse fails.

If you had not been paying attention to West's signal you might have decided to risk a ♣ lead - with a disastrous result.

Deal 20

West Deals

None Vul

♠ A Q 10
 ♥ 9 2
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ A K 10 6 3

12
 13 2
 13

West

1 ♣

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ A

♠ 6 4

♥ A J 8

♦ A Q J 6

♣ 8 7 5 4



♠ K J 3

♥ K Q 7 6 4 3

♦ K 10

♣ J 9

North

Pass

2 ♣

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

You are West. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♣ A, East played the ♣ 2 and South the ♣ 9. What should you play to the second trick?

When you have made your choice

On first thought East's ♣ 2 seems to be a discouraging signal. Think again.

After the first trick you know the location of every ♣ except the ♣ Q and ♣ J. If East started with ♣ J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ J. If East started with ♣ Q J 2 he would have signaled with the ♣ Q. Since he did neither he started either with singleton ♣ 2 or with ♣ Q 2. In either case you should play a low ♣ now which he will either win with his ♣ Q or he will ruff.

It turns out that he wins with the ♣ Q, then leads a ♠ back to your ♠ A Q.