

**Deal 1**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

18  
3 12  
7

West

Pass

Pass

4 ♥ by North

Lead: ♠ A

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



♠ J 6 4 2  
♥ J 6 3  
♦ A J 6  
♣ 10 7 3

North

1 ♥

4 ♥

East

1 ♠

Pass

South

2 ♥

Pass

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

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♠ A, West plays the ♠ 9, North the ♠ 5. You assume West has signaled you to continue ♠s, so you play the ♠ Q. On this trick West plays the ♠ 3 and North 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, West won't bother ruffing, North WILL ruff and dummy's ♠ J will be established as a winner.

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

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

**Deal 2**

East Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 10 5 2

♥ 8 5 3

♦ A 7 3

♣ J 6 2

♠ 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

♠ K 9 6 3

♥ Q J 10 7

♦ 8 5 2

♣ 8 3

9  
6 19  
6

West	North	East	South
3 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT by East		Pass	Pass
Lead: ♥ Q			

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

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

When you have made your choice

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

Only by watching what South plays. On the ♦ J South 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 East started with the doubleton Jack, so you want to win the second ♦ trick.

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

**Deal 3**

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 4**

West Deals  
None Vul

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

4  
15 13  
8

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
3 NT by West			
Lead: ♥ 5			

♠ 8 4  
♥ A 8 7 5 2  
♦ 7 5 2  
♣ 6 4 2



♠ 9 7 3 2  
♥ —  
♦ 10 9 8 4 3  
♣ A K J 9

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

You are South. 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 North to lead a ♣ if he gets into the lead. If you discard the ♣ 9 North 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.

West 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. North 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 5**

West Deals

None Vul

♠ 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



♠ 6 5 3

♥ 4

♦ J 8 6 4 2

♣ J 9 4 3

18

8 2

12

♠ K J 7

♥ Q J 2

♦ Q 10 3

♣ K 10 7 5

West

North

East

South

2 ♥

2 ♠

Pass

3 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

Pass

Pass

Pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ 4

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. You led the ♥ 4, West 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.