

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 2
♥ J 10 9
♦ A J 7 2
♣ Q 10 9 8

16
8 3
13

West

Pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♠ J

♠ K 6 5 3

♥ A 7 4

♦ Q 8 3

♣ A K 4



♠ A Q 4

♥ K 8 3

♦ K 9 5

♣ J 6 3 2

North

1 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

3 NT

♠ J 10 9 7

♥ Q 6 5 2

♦ 10 6 4

♣ 7 5

You are West. 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 North opened 1 NT, he must have the ♦ Q for this play to make sense.

So if you put on your ♦ A, North will have TWO ♦ winners established. If instead you play low, then North 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

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

6 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣ J

♠ A 6

♥ K 9 3

♦ A Q J 7 4

♣ K Q 7



♠ K Q J 8 2

♥ A 8 7 6 2

♦ 8

♣ A 2

North

3 ♦

3 NT

4 NT

6 ♥

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

ALL

South

1 ♠

3 ♥

4 ♥

5 ♥

Pass

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

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 8 3 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 9 3

16
8 9
7

West

Pass
4 ♥ by North
Lead: ♣ K

♠ A 5
♥ A 10 9 7 5
♦ A Q J
♣ J 8 6



♠ K 7
♥ J 8 6 3 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 4 2

North

1 ♥
Pass

East

Pass
Pass

South

4 ♥

You are West. 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

South has 5 ♥s and North 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
None Vul

♠ K J 3
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ 10 6
♣ 9 7 6 4

7
5 9
19

♠ A 10 5
♥ Q 6 3
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ J 8 5



♠ Q 9 7 4 2
♥ 9 4
♦ A K Q J
♣ A K

♠ 8 6
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 9 5 3
♣ Q 10 3 2

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

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q J 6 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ 9 7 2
♣ 5 4 3

20
3 3
14

West

Pass

6 NT by North

Lead: ♥ 9

♠ A 10 8
♥ K Q 4
♦ A K 10
♣ A 9 8 2



♠ K 7 4
♥ A J 10
♦ Q J 4
♣ Q J 10 7

North

2 NT

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

6 NT

You are West. 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. North's 2 NT promises 20 or 21 points, South has 14 and you have 3; total = 37 or 38. Therefore East 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 East MUST have a King, and it must be ♣s or ♦s since he has denied any ♥ Honor.

Since East 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.

North 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

None Vul

♠ 10 9 8 2

♥ 9 6 3 2

♦ 5 3

♣ K Q 4

11
5 8
16

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 10

♠ K J 5

♥ Q 7 4

♦ 10 7 2

♣ A J 9 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ A Q 4

♥ A 8 5

♦ A Q 8 4

♣ 8 6 3

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

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 ♣KQ.

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

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.