

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 3
♥ 5 4
♦ Q 10 8 3
♣ J 9 6 5 2

18
3 12
7

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by North			
Lead: ♠ A			

♠ 8 5
♥ A K Q 8 7 2
♦ K 5 4
♣ A Q

N
 W
 E
 S

♠ A K Q 10 7
♥ 10 9
♦ 9 7 2
♣ K 8 4

♠ J 6 4 2
♥ J 6 3
♦ A J 6
♣ 10 7 3

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

♠ J 8
 ♥ 9 6 2
 ♦ K Q 10 9 4
 ♣ 9 7 5

9
 6 19
 6

♠ A 10 5 2
 ♥ 8 5 3
 ♦ A 7 3
 ♣ J 6 2

♠ 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

West	North	East	South
3 NT	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT by East			
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

♠ K Q 9 3
 ♥ 8 7 3
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ 9 7 6 4

♠ 8 7 2
 ♥ J 9 5 2
 ♦ A 8 4 3
 ♣ 8 3

N
 W E
 S

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♥ 4			

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

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
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



♠ K J 6
♥ J 10 6 3
♦ A Q 6
♣ Q 10 5

♠ 9 7 3 2
♥ —
♦ 10 9 8 4 3
♣ A K J 9

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

18
8 2
12



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.