

**Deal 1**

South Deals  
None Vul

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

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



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

7  
12 3  
18

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

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	4 ♥
4 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♠ A			

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 2**

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 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

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**

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 5**

East Deals

None Vul

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

12  
 2 8  
 18

West

Pass

Pass

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

North

3 ♠

Pass

East

2 ♥

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♠

4 ♠

♠ 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.