

Deal 1

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 7 6
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ J 9 6 3
♣ 9 5

18
1 4
17

West

Pass
Pass
6 NT by South
Lead: ♥ 10

♠ K Q 5
♥ A 6 3
♦ A 8 2
♣ A J 4 3



♠ A J 2
♥ K Q 4
♦ K Q 7 5
♣ Q 7 2

North

6 NT

East

Pass

♠ 10 8 4 3
♥ J 5 2
♦ 10 4
♣ K 10 8 6

South

1 NT
Pass

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥T, won by dummy's ♥A. At trick 2 South calls for dummy's ♣3. Which card do you play?

When you have made your choice

You would not have been expecting South to play a small ♣ from dummy's holding. The only way it makes sense is if South holds the ♣Q.

If you play your ♣K you will win the trick, but in so doing you will set up 3 ♣ tricks for South, which is all he needs to make the slam.

Play low instead and South will win his ♣Q. But now your ♣K T sits behind

dummy's ♣J 4 so he can get only one more trick in the suit, the ♣A.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 9 6
♥ —
♦ 10 8 6 4 3
♣ A 8 4 3

11
5 5
19

♠ K 7 2
♥ K J 10 9 3
♦ 7 2
♣ K J 10



♠ A Q 5
♥ A Q 8 6 5 2
♦ A K
♣ 6 2

♠ 8 4 3
♥ 7 4
♦ Q J 9 5
♣ Q 9 7 5

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♥ by South
Lead: ♠ J

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠ J, the ♠ K is played from dummy and holds the trick. Next come dummy's ♥ K, then another trump to South's ♥ A.

At trick 4 South plays the ♣ 2 from his hand and you must decide what to play.

When you have made your choice

South has 2 small ♣s and faces a choice of dummy plays in the suit. He must decide whether to play you for the ♣ A or the ♣ Q. If you play your ♣ A you make the decision very easy for him.

When you correctly play your small ♣ life becomes harder for South. Sometimes he will guess correctly and play dummy's

♣ K, but other times he will play dummy's ♣ J, hoping you have the ♣ Q.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 10 8 7 6 2

♥ 10 5 4

♦ K 6

♣ J 9 6

11
4 10
15

West

Pass

Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 6

♠ 5 4

♥ J 6 2

♦ J 8 5 2

♣ A K Q 2



♠ K Q J

♥ A K 7 3

♦ Q 10 9 4

♣ 7 3

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

1 NT

Pass

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♠ 6. You won the ♠ A and returned the ♠ 9, won by South's ♠ Q.

South next played to dummy's ♣ A and led the ♦ 2. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

Count the points. South's 15-17 plus North's 11 plus your T comes to 36-38. So West has room for an Ace or a King, but no more.

West's second ♠ play was the 2, so it looks like he started with 5 ♠s. And the fall of South's ♠s looks like he may have 1 ♠ left, very likely the ♠ K.

All this means that you should take your ♦ A now and return your last ♠ to establish West's suit. Now West's ♦ K will be an entry to the ♠s

If you play low, West will have to take the ♦ K now, and although he can play a ♠ to establish the suit, he will not have an entry to be able to cash them.

Deal 4

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 9 4
♥ A 2
♦ 10 6 4 3
♣ Q J 10 7 5

14
7 4
15

♠ K Q 8 6
♥ K 7 5 3
♦ A Q 5
♣ 8 4



♠ A J 10 7 3
♥ 9 8 6 4
♦ K 7
♣ A K

♠ 5 2
♥ Q J 10
♦ J 9 8 2
♣ 9 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
			1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♠ by South
Lead: ♣ Q

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♣ Q, East plays low and South wins the ♣ A.

South pulls trumps in 2 rounds. He then takes the ♦ K, ♦ Q, ♦ A, discarding a ♥ on the last one. Next he plays dummy's last ♣ to his ♣ K.

Having done all this, South now plays a low ♥ from his hand. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

If you followed what South was doing you will realize that he has eliminated both the ♦s and ♣s from both his hand and dummy. If it isn't clear that he is now out of ♣s, just remember the bidding - he must have had 5 ♠s and 4 ♥s.

Suppose you play low on this ♥ (as South hopes you will). Dummy's ♥ K will take the trick, and when another ♥ is played you will have to win it with your now bare ♥ A. You will then have to play a ♦ or a ♣, giving South a ruff and sluff.

But if you take your ♥ A now, then exit with your ♥ 2, South can win the ♥ K but will still have to lose a ♥ to East.

Deal 5

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q J 9 5
♥ —
♦ 9 6 4 2
♣ 9 6 5 3

17
6 3
14

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

6 ♥ by South
Lead: ♠ K

♠ 10 7 2
♥ J 8 7 3 2
♦ A K Q
♣ A K



♠ A 6
♥ A K 9 6 5
♦ J 10 5
♣ Q 10 2

North

3 ♦
6 ♥

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♥
3 NT
Pass

♠ 8 4 3
♥ Q 10 4
♦ 8 7 3
♣ J 8 7 4

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

West led the ♠ K, won by South's ♠ A. South played a small ♣ to dummy's ♣ A, then led dummy's ♥ J.

What do you play? ♥ Q or ♥ 4?

When you have made your choice

Remember that South opened 1 ♥, so he has 5 of them. With only 3 trumps out he has no intention of finessing. Perhaps he led the ♥ J just to tempt you to cover in this situation.

If you play low he will win with one of his high ♥s and then you will have a sure ♥ winner. Along with the ♠ winner West has you will defeat the slam.

If you cover the ♥ J with your ♥ Q South will again win with one of his high ones. But now the position will be clear to South and he will return to dummy and play another ♥, finessing your ♥ T. With no trump loser he will make the slam.

Deal 6

South Deals
None Vul

♠ A 9 5 2
♥ 7 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ 10 8 5 3

16
4 12
8

West

Pass
Pass

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♥ 2

♠ Q J 6

♥ 10 5 4

♦ A K 3

♣ A Q 7 4



♠ 8 3

♥ K Q J 9 8 6

♦ Q 7 5

♣ 6 2

North

4 ♥

East

Pass

South

2 ♥

Pass

♠ K 10 7 4

♥ A 3

♦ J 10 9 2

♣ K J 9

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You decide a trump lead is called for and lead the ♥ 2. Your partner wins with the ♥ A and plays the ♦ J. South lets this go to dummy's ♦ K, (but you know he has ♦ Q), then plays a trump back to his ♥ K, pulling the 2 outstanding trumps from West and East.

South's next play is the ♠ 3 from his hand. Do you play your ♠ A or not?

When you have made your choice

Even if South doesn't have the ♠ K he can establish a ♠ winner just by leading twice toward the ♠ Q J. That winner will take care of whatever black-suit loser he may have.

If East has a ♣ trick it is important to get it established soon. So go up with the ♠ A and play a ♣ through dummy's ♣ A Q. When South tries the ♠ suit again EAST can win and cash his ♣ K for the setting trick.

If you play low on South's ♠ play East will be forced to win the trick and he cannot profitably attack the ♣ suit from his side.