

Deal 1North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 2
 ♥ J 10 9
 ♦ A J 7 2
 ♣ Q 10 9 8

¹⁶
8 3
₁₃



♠ K 6 5 3
 ♥ A 7 4
 ♦ Q 8 3
 ♣ A K 4

♠ J 10 9 7
 ♥ Q 6 5 2
 ♦ 10 6 4
 ♣ 7 5

♠ A Q 4
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ K 9 5
 ♣ J 6 3 2

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pass | 1 NT | Pass | 3 NT |
| 3 NT by North | | | |
| Lead: ♠ J | | | |

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 2South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10 4
 ♥ J 10 5 4
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ J 10 9 3

19
2 5
14

| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | 1 ♠ |
| Pass | 3 ♦ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | 4 ♥ |
| Pass | 4 NT | Pass | 5 ♥ |
| Pass | 6 ♥ | ALL | Pass |
| 6 ♥ by South | | | |
| Lead: ♣ J | | | |

♠ A 6

♥ K 9 3

♦ A Q J 7 4

♣ K Q 7

♠ 10 4

♥ J 10 5 4

♦ 9 6 3

♣ J 10 9 3

♠ K Q J 8 2

♥ A 8 7 6 2

♦ 8

♣ A 2

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| W | N | E | S |
| | | | |
| | | | |

♠ 9 7 5 3
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K 10 5 2
 ♣ 8 6 5 4

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

♠ A 5
♥ A 10 9 7 5
♦ A Q J
♣ J 8 6

♠ J 10 6 4
♥ K
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q 7 5

♠ K 7
♥ J 8 6 3 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 4 2

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | 4 ♥ |

4 ♥ by North
Lead: ♣ K

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 | ♠ A 10 5 |
| None Vul | ♥ Q 6 3 |
| | ♦ 8 7 4 2 |
| | ♣ J 8 5 |
| ♠ K J 3 | ♠ 8 6 |
| ♥ J 10 8 5 | ♥ A K 7 2 |
| ♦ 10 6 | ♦ 9 5 3 |
| ♣ 9 7 6 4 | ♣ Q 10 3 2 |

| | |
|-----|-------------|
| 7 | ♠ Q 9 7 4 2 |
| 5 9 | ♥ 9 4 |
| 19 | ♦ A K Q J |
| | ♣ A K |

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 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 | ♠ A 10 8 |
| None Vul | ♥ K Q 4 |
| | ♦ A K 10 |
| | ♣ A 9 8 2 |

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| ♠ Q J 6 2 | ♠ 9 5 3 |
| ♥ 6 5 3 | ♥ 9 8 7 2 |
| ♦ 9 7 2 | ♦ 8 6 5 3 |
| ♣ 5 4 3 | ♣ K 6 |
| | ♠ K 7 4 |
| | ♥ A J 10 |
| 20 3 3 14 | ♦ Q J 4 |
| | ♣ Q J 10 7 |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 2 NT | Pass | 6 NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| 6 NT by North | | | |
| Lead: ♥ 9 | | | |

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 | ♠ K J 5 |
| None Vul | ♥ Q 7 4 |
| | ♦ 10 7 2 |
| | ♣ A J 9 5 |
| ♠ 10 9 8 2 | ♠ 7 6 3 |
| ♥ 9 6 3 2 | ♥ K J 10 |
| ♦ 5 3 | ♦ K J 9 6 |
| ♣ K Q 4 | ♣ 10 7 2 |



| | |
|-----|-----------|
| 11 | ♠ A Q 4 |
| 5 8 | ♥ A 8 5 |
| 16 | ♦ A Q 8 4 |
| | ♣ 8 6 3 |

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | 1 NT |
| Pass | 3 NT | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |
| 3 NT by South | | | |
| Lead: ♠ 10 | | | |

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.

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 ♣ K Q.

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