

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

East Deals

None Vul

♠ A 6
♥ K 9 3
♦ A Q J 7 4
♣ K Q 7

5
19 14
2

West

North

East

South

3 ♦

Pass

3 ♥

Pass

3 NT

Pass

4 ♥

Pass

4 NT

Pass

5 ♥

Pass

6 ♥

ALL

Pass

6 ♥ by East

Lead: ♣ J

♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ Q
♦ K 10 5 2
♣ 8 6 5 4



♠ K Q J 8 2
♥ A 8 7 6 2
♦ 8
♣ A 2

♠ 10 4
♥ J 10 5 4
♦ 9 6 3
♣ J 10 9 3

You are South. The bidding has been as shown.

Your lead of the ♣ J was won by East with the ♣ A. East then played the ♥ 2 and you must decide whether to split your honors.

When you have made your choice

East'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 East calls for dummy's ♥ K, North'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

South Deals
None Vul

♠ J 10 6 4
♥ K
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q 7 5

7
9 8
16

♠ K 7
♥ J 8 6 3 2
♦ K 5 3
♣ 10 4 2



♠ Q 9 8 3 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 10 9 8
♣ A 9 3

♠ A 5
♥ A 10 9 7 5
♦ A Q J
♣ J 8 6

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			
4 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♣ K			

You are East. 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

North has 5 ♥s and South 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

West Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 7 4 2
♥ 9 4
♦ A K Q J
♣ A K

5
19 7
9

West

1 ♠

4 ♠

4 ♠ by West

Lead: ♥ J

♠ K J 3
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ 10 6
♣ 9 7 6 4



♠ 8 6
♥ A K 7 2
♦ 9 5 3
♣ Q 10 3 2

North

Pass

Pass

East

2 ♠

Pass

South

Pass

Pass

♠ A 10 5
♥ Q 6 3
♦ 8 7 4 2
♣ J 8 5

You are North. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♥ J, covered by dummy's ♥ Q and won by South's ♥ K. South wins the ♥ A at the second trick and continues with a small ♥ ruffed by West.

West 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 West decides to finesse the ♠ T then you will still win the one ♠ trick which you are entitled to win.

However, with West holding the ♠ Q it would be very logical for him to go up with the ♠ A then lead back toward his ♠ Q, playing South for the ♠ K. If he plays this way you will get two tricks and defeat the contract.