

Deal 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A K 9 4
♥ K Q 6
♦ A Q 4
♣ 10 8 6

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ 10
♦ J 10 9 8 5 2
♣ Q 5

♠ 10 6 2
♥ 7 3
♦ K 7 6 3
♣ A 9 4 2

♠ Q 5
♥ A J 9 8 5 4 2
♦ —
♣ K J 7 3

18
4 7
11

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♥ by South
Lead: ♦ J

You are East. The bidding has been as shown, (wild).

Partner led the ♦ J; ♦ Q from dummy, ♦ K from you and ruffed by South.

South then pulls two rounds of trumps, (West discards on the second one), followed by his ♠ Q, dummy's ♠ A K and dummy's ♦ A. South discards ♣s on the last two cards.

The ♣ 6 is then played from dummy and you must make a decision - ♣ A or ♣ 2?

When you have made your choice

You have a full count on South's hand. He started with 2 ♠s, 7 ♥s, and no ♦s. His other 4 cards must have been ♣s, and he has discarded 2 of them.

So he has 2 ♣s left in his hand. If one of them is the ♣ K and you play your ♣ A then you have handed him the contract.

By playing low you give him a guess to make. If he plays the ♣ K he will make the contract, but if he plays the ♣ J he will go down. He will probably play the ♣ J, figuring you wouldn't have the nerve to duck with the ♣ A. He'll know better next time he plays against you.

Deal 2

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K Q 4
♥ 7 4
♦ J 9 7 5 4
♣ A J 3

12
11 4
13

West

Pass
Pass
Pass

3 NT by South
Lead: ♦ 5

♠ 8 6 2
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ 8 3
♣ Q 10 6



♠ J 9 5
♥ 9 3
♦ A K Q
♣ K 9 7 5 2

North

1 ♥
3 NT

East

Pass
Pass

South

1 ♣
1 NT
Pass

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♦ 5; ♦ 3, ♦ T and won by South with ♦ K. South now leads the ♣ 9 from his hand and it is your play.

When you have made your choice

First ask yourself "Where are the ♦ A and ♦ Q?" East doesn't have either one or he would have played it at the first trick. So South has both of them. So with those 3 tricks and the 5 ♥s in dummy South only needs to find one more winner. Assuming he has the ♣ K, (or why play the suit), if you play low he will find that one more winner whichever high ♣ he plays.

Next ask yourself "Where is the ♠ A?" Clearly East DOES have this card; otherwise South has his 9 tricks.

So the way to beat the contract is to go up with your ♣ A, then play ♠ K, ♠ Q and a third ♠, hoping East holds ♠ A x x x.

Deal 3

South Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 5 2
♥ A Q 6 4 3
♦ 7 4
♣ 10 6 3

12
6 5
17

West

Pass
Pass

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ 4

♠ A K
♥ 10 9 7
♦ 10 9 6 2
♣ K Q 8 5



♠ Q 10 6
♥ K J 8
♦ K Q J 3
♣ A J 2

North

3 NT

East

Pass

South

1 NT
Pass

♠ J 9 7 4 3
♥ 5 2
♦ A 8 5
♣ 9 7 4

You are East. The bidding has been as shown.

Partner led the ♥ 4, won by South's ♥ 8.

South enters dummy with the ♠ K and leads the ♦ T. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

You don't have much in your hand, but you do have the ♦ A, and you also have the responsibility to help West set up his suit.

So even though you don't know for sure how good that suit is, your plan of action should be to take the ♦ A and return a ♥.

As you see, this will defeat the contract. Had you played a low ♦ South would have

pocketed that trick and added 4 ♣s and 3 ♠s to go with the ♥ he had already won.

Deal 4

North Deals

None Vul

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

West	North	East	South
	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 NT by South			
Lead: ♠ 7			

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♠ 7; ♠ 3, ♠ 2 and won by South with ♠ Q.

South then plays the ♣ 6 from his hand. Which ♣ should you play?

When you have made your choice

You should not allow yourself to be misled by South winning the first trick with the ♠ Q. East does not hold either the ♠ A or the ♠ J or he would have played it. South is just trying to be deceptive.

That means you need the next ♠ play to come from East, so you play your ♣ J and let East win his ♣ A. You can be sure East

has the ♣ A because South would have played the suit differently if he held the Ace.

East will win the ♣ A and return his ♠ through South's ♠ A Q. This allows you to set up your ♠ suit while you still have the ♣ K for an entry.

Deal 5

South Deals ♠ K 6
 None Vul ♥ 8 5 2
 ♠ Q 7 3
 ♣ Q 7 3

♠ Q 10 8 5 3 2 ♠ 7
 ♥ 7 3 ♥ 9 6 4
 ♦ Q J 10 ♦ K 8 6 3
 ♣ 9 4 ♣ J 10 8 6 2

♠ A J 9 4
 ♥ A K Q J 10
 ♦ A
 ♣ A K 5

West	North	East	South
			2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

6 ♥ by South
 Lead: ♦ Q

You are East. The bidding has been as shown. Partner led the ♦ Q, you signaled with the ♦ 8 and South won the ♦ A.

South then played low to dummy's ♠ K, and led dummy's ♠ 6. Your decision is not whether to play high or low, but whether to ruff or not, which amounts to the same thing.

When you have made your choice

Even though South holds the ♠ A, if you ruff now he will just put on a small ♠ and you will be ruffing a loser. Instead discard a ♦.

South will win the ♠ A, but will not be able to ruff any ♠ losers in dummy because your trumps can overruff any of North's trumps.

Suppose you had ruffed the ♠. South would have played his ♠ 9, leaving himself with ♠ A J. He would then get the lead and pull your two remaining trumps. That would leave one trump in dummy to ruff his ♠ J, his only remaining loser.

Deal 6

South Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 9 2
♥ Q 3
♦ Q J 10 6
♣ K Q J 8

8
13 5
14

West

Pass

Pass

1 NT by South

Lead: ♣ K

♠ J 6 3
♥ A K 10 9 8
♦ 8 2
♣ 10 9 4



♠ K 8 5
♥ 7 4
♦ A K 7 3
♣ A 7 6 2

North

1 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♦

1 NT

You are West. The bidding has been as shown.

You lead the ♣ K and continue with the ♣ J then ♣ Q, taken by South's ♣ A. To trick 4 South plays the ♥ 4. What do you play?

When you have made your choice

To see why you should play the ♥ Q, just visualize the result if you play low. South will finesse with dummy's ♥ 8. If East wins his ♥ J on this trick there will be 4 good ♥ tricks in dummy. If East withholds his ♥ J then Declarer will have 3 ♥ winners.

Now visualize the result of playing the ♥ Q. Whether South takes this trick or not he cannot win more than 2 ♥s.