

Vocabulary:

Trump: The suit named in the bidding that wins the auction.

Ruffing: To win a trick by using the trump suit. Also known as trumping.

Trumping: To win a trick by using the trump suit. Also known as ruffing.

Winners: Tricks the declarer can count on taking.

Immediate losers: Tricks the defenders can take as soon as they gain the lead.

Eventual losers/slow losers: Tricks the defenders can take if they continue to attack a suit.

The Benefits of Playing in a Trump Contract:

1. You can protect against long suits held by the defenders.
2. You can use trumps in both hands and increase the number of tricks you can take.
3. Shortness becomes an asset instead of a weakness.

The Downside of Playing in a Trump Contract:

1. The defenders can use trumps too.

Strategies for Making Extra Tricks

Strategies that work for both trump and no-trump contracts.

1. You can promote lower cards by knocking out higher cards.
2. You can take finesse.
3. You can set up a long suit so that your length becomes an extra trick.

Strategies that work for trump contracts only:

4. You can trump a card in the hand with shorter trump.
5. You can trump cards in both hands thereby using your trumps separately.
6. You can discard losers on the short trump suit side and then trump losers in that hand creating winners.

Strategies for Getting Rid of Losers

1. You can use your shortness in the hand with short trump to ruff away a loser.
2. You can finesse them away.
3. You can discard them on extra winners.