



Lesson 40 Examples

Some sacrifices

Eg 1	<p> ♠K109 ♥Q1075 ♦Q8642 ♣3 </p>	NS Game Dlr South	<i>West</i> 2♣ 5♣ Pass	<i>North</i> - 2♥ Pass Pass	<i>East</i> - 3♣ Pass Pass	<i>South</i> 1♥ 4♥ Double
♠75 ♥8432 ♦9 ♣AKJ1097	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠6432 ♥6 ♦KJ107 ♣Q865				
	♠AQJ8 ♥AKJ9 ♦A53 ♣42					

West does not expect to make 5♣! He thinks “4♥ will probably make. I cannot take many club tricks in defence now that partner has raised me.

They have bid and raised hearts, so partner is short in that suit and I can ruff hearts in his hand. I am short in spades and diamonds, so 5♣ will not go many down.

Two down is –300, far less than –620.

I will *lose less* by bidding 5♣ than by defending against 4♥”. West is quite right: he loses just 300 points in 5♣ doubled. And there is the possibility of a bigger gain: if South thinks he is being pushed around and bids 5♥ he will go down, and East-West will get a plus score.

Eg 2	<p> ♠QJ62 ♥K854 ♦93 ♣A83 </p>	NS Game Dlr South	<i>West</i> - 2♦ Pass Pass	<i>North</i> - 3♠ Pass Double	<i>East</i> - Pass 5♦ All Pass	<i>South</i> 1♠ 4♠ Pass
♠83 ♥J106 ♦AQJ875 ♣Q2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠10 ♥Q92 ♦K1064 ♣J10954				
	♠AK9754 ♥A73 ♦2 ♣K76					

Here East thinks it unlikely that the vulnerable 4♠ contract will go down, and he hopes to lose no more than 500 points in 5♦. Indeed, 5♦ did go three down, so EW lost 500 instead of 620.

(But perhaps if East had bid 5♦ one round earlier he might push North-South into 5♠ and actually make a plus score!)



Lesson 40 Examples

Advance sacrifices

♠6	N	NS Vul
♥K9542	W E	Dealer East
♦J873	S	
♣1053		

West	North	East	South
-	-	3♥	Double
???			

This is **favourable vulnerability**.

East has 7 hearts and very few HCP which suggests opponents can surely make 6♠, perhaps even 7♠.

A high-level heart contract cannot go many down when you have 12 trump between the hands. It is a good tactic to bid 5♥, or even 6♥ with this West hand, before opponents can investigate their best fit.

If you remove their bidding room they must guess what to do – and sometimes they will guess wrong.

♠K10963	N	Love All
♥8	W E	Dealer East
♦10432	S	
♣965		

West	North	East	South
-	-	1♠	Double
???			

At any vulnerability this hand should leap 4♠, not because you expect to make the contract but because we are confident that opponents can make theirs – probably 4♥

When not to sacrifice

All Vul	♠A974
Dealer West	♥KQJ6
	♦KJ83
	♣2
♠KJ10	N
♥A8	W E
♦542	S
♣AJ876	
	♠6
	♥10532
	♦1097
	♣KQ1054
	♠Q8532
	♥974
	♦AQ6
	♣93

West	North	East	South
1♣	Double	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
???			

You are West, and you must **not** “sacrifice” in 5♣. You have a **balanced distribution** - 5♣ might go many down. You are far from sure that 4♠ will make. Your strength in spades makes their game dubious at best. East’s hand looks much more like a sacrifice, and West should deter partner from sacrificing by making a **penalty double**.

If your side were to sacrifice it would be called a **“phantom sacrifice”** – a sacrifice against a game that is not making. Not a good idea!