



Lesson 46 Example

Counting the High Card Points

EW Vul	♠953		
Dealerr	♥AK		
South	♦KQ84		
	♣Q642		
		N	♠Q7
		W E	♥98432
		S	♦AJ3
			♣KJ5
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

South opens 3♠ and North raises optimistically to game.
 West leads ♥Q, won in dummy with ♥K
 Declarer plays a trump to ♠A in his hand, partner following with ♠2
 He continues with ♠K on which partner discards ♦2
 Now declarer plays a diamond to dummy's ♦K. What should East do?
 He pauses to consider what he knows about the hand.
 South had ♠AKJ10864 (7 sure tricks)
 Dummy has ♥AK for 2 more tricks, and a diamond will make 10 tricks.
 To beat 4♠ East must win ♦A and try to make 3 club tricks quickly.
 He must play ♣5 to partner's ♣A, and win two more tricks on the club return. How does he know West has ♣A?
 South opened with a pre-empt: he cannot have 12HCP!
 And if West does not have ♣A you cannot beat this game!

			♠95
			♥843
			♦AQJ106
			♣KQJ
♠J8732		N	
♥AQJ7		W E	
♦8		S	
♣854			
West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South opens 1NT (12-14HCP), and North raises to game.
 West leads ♠3, fourth highest of his longest suit. East plays ♠K and declarer wins ♠A.
 Now South plays ♦9 to your ♦8, dummy's ♦6 and partner's ♦3.
 The next card South plays is ♦2. What should West discard?
 North has 13HCP, you have 8, South has 12-14, so East has 5-7HCP.
 East's ♠K at trick 1 denies ♠Q (Third Hand plays lower of touching cards). So South has ♠AQ.
 The missing high cards are ♥K, ♦K and ♣A. Partner must have one of them, hopefully ♦K or ♣A. (Otherwise declarer has 9 tricks)
 When he gets in you want him to lead a heart through declarer's king
 But he does not know the spade position, so he will return your suit **unless you tell him not to**. Discard a spade on the second diamond!
You would not throw a spade unless you wanted him to lead something else.

Counting the Tricks

			♠1098
			♥Q9
			♦863
			♣AKQ108
♠K53		N	
♥J1053		W E	
♦KJ94		S	
♣52			
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

This is the kind of auction where the defence needs to lead an unbid suit before all declarer's losers disappear on dummy's clubs.
 So West makes an attacking lead: ♦4.
 East wins ♦A and returns ♦2 to South's queen and West's king.
 What does West know?
 South has shown a minimum opener, his points will be ♠AQ, ♦Q and ♥A or ♥K. He has at least 6 spades, but no other 4-card suit – surely with ♦Q10xx he would prefer to rebid 2♦.
 The defence have made 2 diamonds, and West has a certain trick in trump. If South has only 2 diamonds he will trump a third round and play on trump. And East will need to hold ♥A to beat the contract.
 West should switch to ♥J at trick 3 in case partner has ♥K.
 (East's ♦2 return is a clue: he returns his original fourth highest)



Lesson 46 Example

Giving a Count Signal

♣KQJ2
♣A74 ♣963
♣1085

When South leads ♣10 West ducks.
When East plays ♣3 it must be his lowest card
(♣2 is in dummy) So he has an odd number,
and South has 3 clubs

♣KQJ2
♣A74 ♣9863
♣105

If East plays ♣6 West will not know whether he
has ♣986 or ♣65 or ♣9863. It costs nothing
to play an unambiguous ♣9. **That cannot be
his lowest card**, so he has an even number

The Count Signal

a)

♠87					
♥Q53					
♦KJ1064					
♣972					
♠KJ963	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠1052
N					
W E					
S					
♥J92		♥A764			
♦A75		♦82			
♣104		♣J863			
♠AQ4					
♥K108					
♦Q93					
♣AKQ5					

b)

♠87					
♥653					
♦KJ1064					
♣972					
♠KJ963	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠1052
N					
W E					
S					
♥A72		♥QJ94			
♦A75		♦832			
♣104		♣J83			
♠AQ4					
♥K108					
♦Q9					
♣AKQ65					

South opens 2NT and North raises to 3NT, hoping his diamonds will provide the tricks required for game.
West leads ♠6, fourth highest of his longest and strongest suit. East plays ♠10 and South wins ♠Q.
South leads ♦Q from his hand in the hope of making 4 diamond tricks. But West knows about **holding up**, so
he ducks ♦A

In a) East plays ♦8, a high card to show an *even number*
of diamonds. This must be 2, not 4, since South has a
balanced hand, therefore no singletons.
So South has 3 diamonds (5 in North, 3 in West, 2 in East)
South plays ♦9, and West ducks again.
By **holding up** till the third round West cuts the
communication to the North hand. When clubs
do not break and ♥A lies over ♥Q the game fails

In b) East plays ♦2, a low card to show an *odd number*
of diamonds. This is either a singleton
or 3, so declarer has 4 or 2.
When South plays ♦9 West wins the trick – no
point in holding up when South either has no
diamonds left, or two.
(**Note** that if West holds up for an extra round,
just to be sure, declarer will make 9 tricks.)

Dealer N	♠A95					
	♥J3					
	♦AK73					
	♣J1073					
	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>W E</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠Q874	
N						
W E						
S						
		♥AK5				
		♦95				
		♣9852				
West	North	East	South			
-	1NT	Pass	4♥			
All Pass						

North opens 1NT, showing 12-14HCP
South's 4♥ suggests he has an unbalanced distribution with long hearts
West leads ♠2, low from an honour. How many spades does he have?
And South? (*Four and two respectively*)
Declarer wins ♠K in hand and plays ♥2 to ♥4, ♥J and East's king.
How many hearts do you think South has? (*six or seven*)
You have 2 trump tricks. Where will you find 2 more tricks?
(*from the minors*)
To check the diamond position you return ♦9 to South's ♦Q.
West plays ♦8. How many diamonds has West? And South?
(*four and three: with a singleton South would have taken a discard*)
Declarer plays ♥3 to your king, partner follows with ♥6
What is South's distribution? (2-6-3-2)
What now? (*Try a club, maybe partner has ♣AQ.*)