



Lesson 45 Examples

The Importance of Communication

♠KQJ98762	N	♠10
♥96	W E	♥AK42
♦54	S	♦AJ32
♣3		♣A975
West		East
3♠		3NT

West opens a vulnerable pre-emptive 3♠.

East bids 3NT because “I have all the other suits”

West has described his hand and makes a trusting, disciplined pass
3NT is hopeless – East makes just 4 tricks because *there is no entry to the West hand* for those lovely spades. Compare this with a 4♠ contract. You can easily reach the West hand by ruffing clubs.

4♠ makes 11 easy tricks, and that is what East should bid

Honours from the Short Hand First

	N	♠A2
	W E	♥9643
	S	♦A8752
♠975		♣KQ
♥KQJ82	N	♠J1084
♦K4	W E	♥107
♣873	S	♦Q109
		♣10654
		♠KQ63
		♥A5
		♦J63
		♣AJ92

South plays in 3NT and West leads ♥K

You can count 9 Sure Tricks: 3 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond, 4 clubs

So you win ♥A and start to cash your winners.

Suppose you cash ♠A, an honour from the short hand, then the other spades. Now you cash ♣KQ – and... how do you get to the South hand for the other club winners?

It is important to cash all the honours in the short hand, ♣KQ, then ♠A. That solves your communication problems

Holding up an ace

1)	N	♠964
	W E	♥83
	S	♦76
♠QJ105		♣KQJ942
♥J1072	N	♠873
♦J432	W E	♥K964
♣10	S	♦KQ5
		♣A83
		♠AK2
		♥AQ5
		♦A1098
		♣765

South plays in 3NT, and West leads ♠Q.

There are just 4 Sure Tricks, 2 in spades, 1 in hearts, 1 in diamonds

Declarer hopes to develop 5 extra tricks in clubs

He wins trick one with the ace of spades and plays a club to the king
What should East do?

If he wins this trick South will make 9 tricks – so he *ducks* his ace

South naturally continues with another club – and *East ducks again*

East has to win the third round of clubs – but now there is no entry to the North hand – the communication is broken.

East can see there is no outside entry to the North hand, so he should be in no hurry to take his ace



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2)	♠AQ4 ♥J85 ♦KJ942 ♣73	♠97 ♥Q10932 ♦A83 ♣1065									
♠J1065 ♥74 ♦76 ♣KQJ82	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N			W	E				S	
N											
W	E										
		S									
	♠K832 ♥AK6 ♦Q105 ♣A94										

West leads ♣K, top of a sequence, against South's 3NT. There are 6 SureTricks, 3 spades, 2 hearts, 1 club. 4 more can be established in the Work Suit, diamonds. But the defence have attacked a weak spot: ♣A is our only stopper. It is worth **holding it up** for 2 rounds to **cut the defenders' communication**. When East wins ♦A he has no club left to lead.

3)	♠97 ♥QJ3 ♦K95 ♣QJ1073	♠A43 ♥10862 ♦J4 ♣A652									
♠QJ1065 ♥97 ♦Q1087 ♣94	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N			W	E				S	
N											
W	E										
		S									
	♠K82 ♥AK54 ♦A632 ♣K8										

This time West leads ♠Q, and East wins ♠A. Now there are 6 Sure Tricks, and knocking out ♣A will establish 4 more. (Remember to start with ♣K, the honour in the short hand.) When East returns a spade at trick 2 South should **hold up** ♠K till the third round. Then when East wins ♣A he has no spade to lead.

Ducking to preserve communications

1)	♠J52 ♥76 ♦A9762 ♣J104	♠Q1074 ♥J105 ♦J83 ♣K86									
♠963 ♥K9843 ♦Q10 ♣Q92	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N			W	E				S	
N											
W	E										
		S									
	♠AK8 ♥AQ2 ♦K54 ♣A753										

South plays in 3NT.

West leads ♥4, fourth highest of his longest and strongest. There are 7 Sure Tricks: 2 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 1 club. East plays ♥10, (Third Hand plays **lower** of **touching high cards**), and South wins ♥Q.

He hopes to develop length tricks in the Work Suit, diamonds. **But dummy has no entry outside diamonds.** The only way to reach dummy is with ♦A. So he needs to keep it to win the third round. Declarer leads ♦4 from hand and plays ♦2 from dummy – this is called **ducking a round of diamonds**. When he regains the lead he can cash ♦K, then win the third round with ♦A. Now there are two more length tricks to cash in dummy. Notice how cashing the king and ace first would establish the length tricks, but then there would be no way to reach them.



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2)	♠ 63 ♥ 853 ♦ 832 ♣ AK973	♠ J1054 ♥ Q107 ♦ K4 ♣ QJ65									
♠ Q972 ♥ J942 ♦ J1096 ♣ 4	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ AK8 ♥ AK6 ♦ AQ75 ♣ 1082
N											
W	E										
	S										

South opens 2NT and North raises to 3NT.
 West leads ♦J, top of a sequence
 There are 8 Sure Tricks, 2 in each suit
 Declarer hopes to establish length tricks in clubs.
 There are no **entries** to dummy outside the club suit
 so he plays **low cards from both hands** on the first round.
 He wins the return and plays another club – and when
 West shows out he can **duck** again. There is just one
 length trick – and an entry to cash it.

3)	♠ 62 ♥ 104 ♦ AK9653 ♣ 943	♠ J74 ♥ J752 ♦ Q10 ♣ K1085									
♠ A9853 ♥ Q86 ♦ J72 ♣ Q7	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ KQ10 ♥ AK93 ♦ 84 ♣ AJ62
N											
W	E										
	S										

A thin 3NT! West leads ♠5 to ♠J and ♠Q,
 giving us 6 Sure Tricks. The best chance of
 more is length tricks in diamonds. There is no
 outside entry to dummy, so declarer **ducks**
 the first round. Now when the suit breaks 3-2
 there are 5 diamond tricks, and an **entry** in ♦A
 to cash them.

Ducking in a suit contract

	♠ 85 ♥ K1032 ♦ K8643 ♣ 74	♠ 93 ♥ Q954 ♦ A95 ♣ K1062									
♠ AQ4 ♥ J76 ♦ Q107 ♣ QJ93	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>	N			W	E			S		♠ KJ10762 ♥ A8 ♦ J2 ♣ A85
N											
W	E										
	S										

South plays in 2♠ and West leads ♣Q
 Obviously South could win and return a club in the hope of ruffing a
 club in dummy (the short hand) later
 But East could win the second round of clubs and lead a spade
 through, allowing West to play three rounds of trump.
 That leaves South with six losers, 2 in trump, 2 in diamonds and 2 in
 clubs. It is better to **duck** the queen of clubs.
 If West continues clubs you make sure of a ruff in dummy
 And if he puts East in with ♦A to lead a trump through you need not
 lose 2 diamonds. (In fact, you can establish **length tricks** by ruffing
 diamonds to discard your club losers)