



Lesson 25 Examples

Examples of Choosing the Opening Lead by Inference from the Bidding

1	♠ Q7	
	♥ QJ9	
	♦ KQ105	
	♣ AJ52	
♠ 1063		♠ AKJ95
♥ 1063		♥ 852
♦ 9764		♦ 3
♣ 1063		♣ K987
	♠ 842	
	♥ AK74	
	♦ AJ82	
	♣ Q4	

South's 1NT opener is raised directly to 3NT

What should West lead?

A spade lead lets partner cash 5 tricks for 1 down

Anything else and declarer makes 4 hearts, 4 diamonds

and ♣A for 9 tricks and his contract.

This appears to be a blind guess - a 1 in 4 chance.

Even a world champion would not **know** what to lead – but he is more likely to guess well than an inexperienced player! He would reason like this:

“North raised to 3NT *without using Stayman*, so he is not interested in 4♥ or 4♠. Partner must have length in one major.” The expert has reduced the guess to a 50% shot

2	♠ AQJ7	All Vul
	♥ K1095	Dealer S
	♦ 872	
	♣ Q4	
♠ 9852		♠ 3
♥ A		♥ 862
♦ KJ103		♦ AQ95
♣ 10985		♣ J7632
	♠ K1064	
	♥ QJ743	
	♦ 64	
	♣ AK	

West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

Both North and South have length in spades, and West has four spades also. Partner must have a singleton or a void. Lead a spade, planning to give partner a ruff when you win ♥A. If partner returns a diamond you can give him another ruff. Two down!

This lead would be more difficult to find if North had simply raised partner's hearts without bidding spades.

Do not make bids just to hear your own voice!

Support partner's major whenever that is an option



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Definitions

A **Sequence** of Honour cards is three or more touching honours: AKQ, KQJ, J109

An **Interior (or broken) Sequence** is three Honour cards with a gap: KQ10, QJ9, KJ10, K109, Q109

Touching Honours are two honour cards (two does not make a sequence!)

Rules for Which Card to Lead

Touching Honours

With an **ace-king** combination lead the **ace**

(but low from AKxx, AKxxx against no-trump)

With other touching honours lead the higher against suits,: K from KQx; Q from QJxx; J from J10xx

(against no-trump lead small from these holdings with 4 or more cards)

Sequences

With a sequence of honours lead the highest: K from KQJ; Q from QJ10, J from J109

With a broken sequence lead the higher of touching honours: K from KQ10, J from KJ10, 10 from Q109

Leading from Honours

Lead a low card from an honour/non-touching honours: 3 from K83; 4 from Q1054; 3 from KJ83

(traditionally we lead **fourth highest** from Hxxx or Hxxxx or Hxxxxx)

Lead a high card from a suit with no honour: 8 from 983, 7 from 8742 etc

(the style is to lead **second highest** from a suit with no honour)

Leading shortages

Lead top of a doubleton: 8 from 83.

(We do not usually lead from a doubleton honour like K5 or Q4 unless partner has bid the suit)

Leading trump

Always lead your lowest trump unless you have a solid sequence – partner may have a singleton honour

Examples of Opening Leads

Card combination	Lead against No-trump	Lead against a suit contract
KQJ3	K	K
QJ96	Q	Q
KQ1054	K	K
J1095	J	J
AK94	4	A
KJ72	2	2
Q10653	5	5
KJ1096	J	J
973	7	7
82	8	8
K62	2	2
AK2	A	A
Q4	Q	Q