



## Lesson 25 Examples

### Examples of Choosing the Opening Lead by Inference from the Bidding

1	♠ Q7 ♥ QJ9 ♦ KQ105 ♣ AJ52	♠ AKJ95 ♥ 852 ♦ 3 ♣ K987						
♠ 1063 ♥ 1063 ♦ 9764 ♣ 1063	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ 842 ♥ AK74 ♦ AJ82 ♣ Q4
N								
W	E							
	S							

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 ♥ K1095 ♦ 872 ♣ Q4	All Vul Dealer S	♠ 3 ♥ 862 ♦ AQ95 ♣ J7632						
♠ 9852 ♥ A ♦ KJ103 ♣ 10985	<table border="1"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	♠ K1064 ♥ QJ743 ♦ 64 ♣ AK	
N									
W	E								
	S								

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***



## Lesson 25 Examples

### 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