

Lesson 23 Examples

Examples of Suit Play: Counting Losers

▲ AJ653

♥ K7

♦ J104 ♣ A97

N \mathbf{W} \mathbf{E} \mathbf{S}

♦ KQ72 **v** 064

♦ AQ95 **4** 103

West is declarer in 4♠, North leads ♣K.

How many **losers** can West count?

First the **trump suit** is *solid:* AKQJ will draw all opponents' trump

In **hearts** he has *one* top loser, ♥A. ♥K/Q are good for 1 trick and he can ruff the third round in his hand.

In **diamonds** he *may* lose one trick if South has ◆K

In **clubs** West makes the ace, leaving *one* loser and one to be ruffed in

A maximum of 3 losers, and he can hope to make the other 10 tricks

West wins A, draws trump and takes the diamond finesse.

If it wins he takes it again, if it loses the defenders can cash 1 club and 1 heart. Either way, 4♠ makes.

How many Losers has declarer in these examples?

▲ 1076

AK7 AJ10875

♣ J

N W \mathbf{E} S

♦ 982 ♥ Q65

♦ K92 **♣** KO53

West plays in 2♦ North leads ♠A

(5 losers: 3 in spades, 1 in diamonds and 1 in clubs)

The defence cash 3 spades, then play a heart.

We do not finesse with 9 cards, so West plays ◆A and ◆K

If the queen appears there are no diamond losers

♠ AOJ84 **▲** 10632 N **♥** K83 **♥** AJ6 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{E} **9** ♦ KO7 S **♣** AK43 **♣** J92

West plays in 4♠ North leads ♦J

(4 losers: 1 in each suit)

Declarer can hope not to lose so many tricks If South wins ◆A and returns a diamond you

discard a heart, and win in dummy.

Now you have no heart loser.

Run ♠10 so you can finesse again if it works – there may be no loser in trump if South has **A**K.

Disposing of Losers

▲ A76 **♥** AKQ73

♦ O9 **♣** OJ8 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{E} S

10965

AK7

4 1096

West plays in 4♥ North leads ♠Q

West counts 4 losers, 2 in spades and 2 in clubs One too many.

But he has 3 diamond winners. 1 losing spade can be discarded on dummy's third diamond.

West wins ♠A.

He draws trumps with $\forall A, \forall K \text{ (and } \forall Q \text{ if necessary.)}$ Next he plays three rounds of diamonds, discarding one spade loser.

Finally, he sets about the Work Suit, clubs, to establish. a trick there. When the defenders win a top club they can cash a spade, but West ruffs the next spade and plays another club to establish a trick.

▲ A76 ♠ 982 ♥ KQJ73 **v** 10965 \mathbf{W} **♦ O**9 ♦ AK7 S **♣** OJ8 ♣ K109

West plays in 4♥. North leads ♠Q 4 losers, 1 in hearts, 2 in spades, 1 in clubs Still one too many

Again, we can *discard* a spade on dummy's high diamond. But if we win A and tackle trumps the defenders will win ♥A and cash two spade

They also have ♣A to take, and that is one down The only way to make the contract is to discard a spade *before* playing trumps

We risk having a diamond ruffed by a defender, but it is the only hope

Note that if North had not led a spade the losers in spades would not be *immediate* so you could play trumps first.



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Example Hands where we have to Postpone Drawing Trumps

1) Taking a discard

A QJ652 **V** 8 **V** AKQ **N** V QJ32 **V** QJ32 **V** AS2 **A** A3

West plays in 4♠. North leads ♣K and the ace wins. There are 4 losers, 2 in spades, 1 in hearts and 1 in clubs. One too many

If he starts to draw trumps the defenders will cash four tricks. Before *giving up the lead*, he cashes three top diamonds and discards dummy's *3 on the third one.

Now when he gives up the lead in trumps the defenders have only 3 winners

Note: The losers in spades and hearts are *immediate losers*: the defence can cash them as soon as they get on lead. The club loser becomes *immediate* when the ace is knocked out If North had not led clubs the club loser would be *eventual*, not immediate.

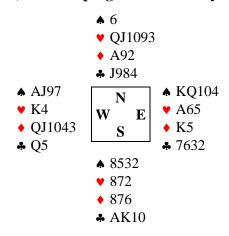
With no immediate loser you would start to play trump since there is no rush to take the discard

^ AQJ62 **V** 8 **O** AQ5 **O** 10984 **V** QJ32 **O** K2 **O** A53 Again West plays in 4♠. North leads ♣K and the ace wins. There are 4 losers, 1 in spades, 1 in hearts and 2 in clubs. One too many

You want to finesse in trumsp in case there is no loser in spades But if the finesse fails the defenders can cash 3 more tricks So even when you *may* have to lose a trick take the discard first

Note: Again, on any other lead there would be no *immediate* club losers, so you would start by drawing trumps.

2) Keeping control while you establish the Work Suit



West plays in 4♠. North leads ♥Q.

There are 3 losers, 2 in clubs and 1 in diamonds. No problem

West wins the first trick with ♥A and starts to draw trump

Everybody follows to ♠K, but North shows out on ♠A

South has four trumps, and it will take 4 rounds to draw them all

But then you will have none left in either hand

When the defenders win ♠A they can cash at least 3 club tricks

You must keep a trump in hand to control the club suit

Establish the Work Suit, diamonds, before you finish drawing trumps

When you have knocked out ♠A you can draw the rest of the trumps and cash your diamond winners