Lesson 53 Examples

Second Hand Plays Low

```
          ♠Q64
        ┌───────┐
        │   N   │
♠??3    │ W   E │    ♠???
        │   S   │
        └───────┘
          ♠K102
```
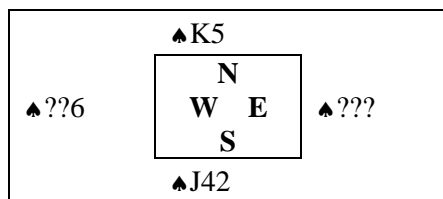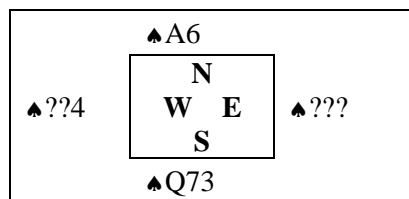
South plays 4♥ and West leads ♠3.
Dummy ('Second Hand') plays low, ♠4.
If East plays ♠A you make 2 tricks with ♠K and ♠Q.
If East plays ♠J, ♠K scores, ♠Q and ♠10 are
equals against ♠A for one more trick.
If East plays a low spade you make ♠10
and ♠Q and ♠K are worth one more trick.
'Second Hand Low' **guarantees** 2 tricks in spades.

```
          ♠Q64
        ┌───────┐
        │   N   │
♠J753   │ W   E │    ♠A98
        │   S   │
        └───────┘
          ♠K102
```
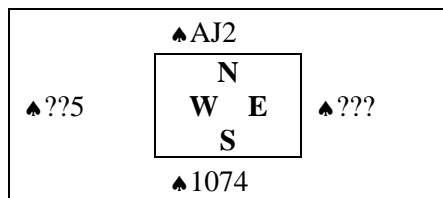
Note the difference if you play ♠Q from dummy.
East wins ♠A. Now if West has ♠J it beats ♠10
and you have only 1 trick.
(This layout is very likely: West has led a low
spade, promising an honour, and we do not
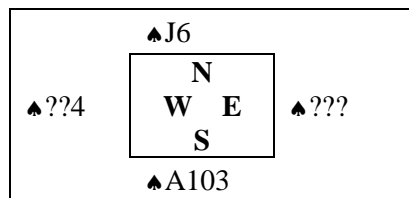underlead aces against suit contracts.)

```
          ♠K5
        ┌───────┐
        │   N   │
♠??6    │ W   E │    ♠???
        │   S   │
        └───────┘
          ♠J42
```

South plays in 3NT. West leads ♠6.
To ensure a trick in spades you must play ♠5.
(Even if East wins ♠Q, the worst case.)

```
          ♠A6
        ┌───────┐
        │   N   │
♠??4    │ W   E │    ♠???
        │   S   │
        └───────┘
          ♠Q73
```

This time West leads ♠4. South must play
low from dummy to guarantee 2 tricks.

```
          ♠AJ2
        ┌───────┐
        │   N   │
♠??5    │ W   E │    ♠???
        │   S   │
        └───────┘
          ♠1074
```
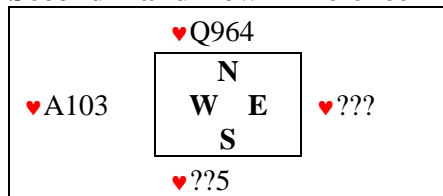
South plays in 3NT. West leads ♠5.
Play ♠2. If East wins ♠Q or ♠K you will make
2 tricks provided West has the other honour.

```
          ♠J6
        ┌───────┐
        │   N   │
♠??4    │ W   E │    ♠???
        │   S   │
        └───────┘
          ♠A103
```
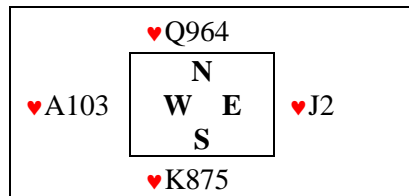
Playing low from dummy guarantees 2 tricks
If you play ♠J and East covers with ♠Q or ♠K
you have only 1 trick.

Second Hand Low in Defence

```
          ♥Q964
        ┌───────┐
        │   N   │
♥A103   │ W   E │    ♥???
        │   S   │
        └───────┘
          ♥??5
```

South plays in 3NT, and at some point leads ♥5
towards dummy. What should you play?
♥A would be silly: it would collect only low cards,
when aces deserve to beat high cards.
♥10 is not good either, and may cost a trick.

```
          ♥Q964
        ┌───────┐
        │   N   │
♥A103   │ W   E │    ♥J2
        │   S   │
        └───────┘
          ♥K875
```
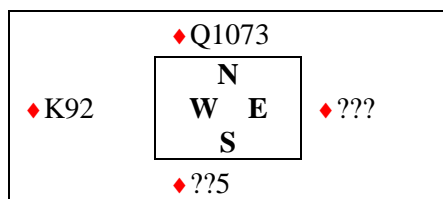
If you play ♥10 the queen wins. The next trick
goes ♥4, ♥J, ♥K, ♥A and declarer makes 3 tricks
to your one. But if you play the right card, ♥3,
you will make 2 tricks because of the power of
East's ♥J. Trick one goes ♥5, ♥3, ♥Q, ♥2.
Trick two goes ♥4, ♥J, ♥K, ♥A and your ♥10
takes trick 3.
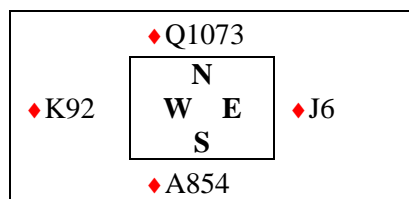It does not help South to duck ♥J – it scores.

Lesson 53 Examples

Second Hand Low in Defence

```
            ♦Q1073
           ┌─────────┐
           │    N    │
♦K92       │  W   E  │       ♦???
           │    S    │
           └─────────┘
            ♦??5
```
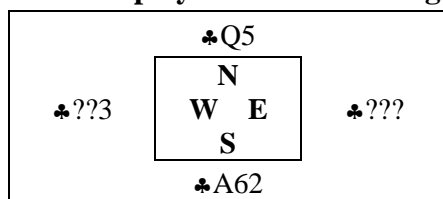
South plays in 5♦, and dummy is on lead.
He starts to draw trump, leading ♦3 from dummy.
The trick goes ♦3-♦6-♦A-♦2.
Who has ♦J? Surely partner has it.
If South has it he would finesse.
(unless he can see ♦K in your hand!)

```
            ♦Q1073
           ┌─────────┐
           │    N    │
♦K92       │  W   E  │       ♦J6
           │    S    │
           └─────────┘
            ♦A854
```
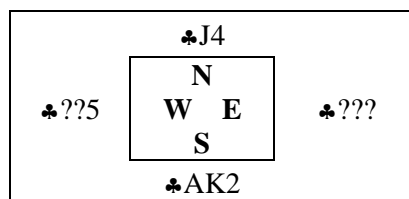
South continues with ♦4 from hand.
What do you play, ♦9 or ♦K?
If you play ♦K you will drop partner's ♦J and make no more tricks in diamonds
But if you play ♦9 you have a chance to make 2 tricks: *declarer does not know who has ♦K* and may play ♦10 from dummy.
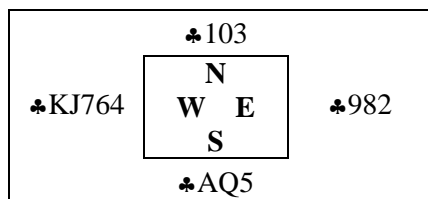
When to play Second Hand High

```
            ♣Q5
           ┌─────────┐
           │    N    │
♣??3       │  W   E  │       ♣???
           │    S    │
           └─────────┘
            ♣A62
```
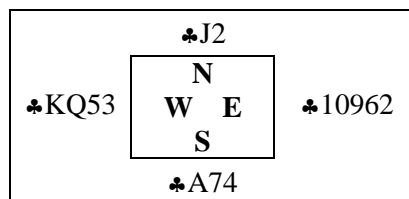
You are South, declarer in 3NT, and West leads ♣3.
If you play ♣5, hoping East will play ♣K if he has it, you are wrong – East knows to play ♣10 from K10x.
Your only chance is that West has ♣K, and you must play ♣Q immediately in the hope of stealing the trick.

```
            ♣J4
           ┌─────────┐
           │    N    │
♣??5       │  W   E  │       ♣???
           │    S    │
           └─────────┘
            ♣AK2
```
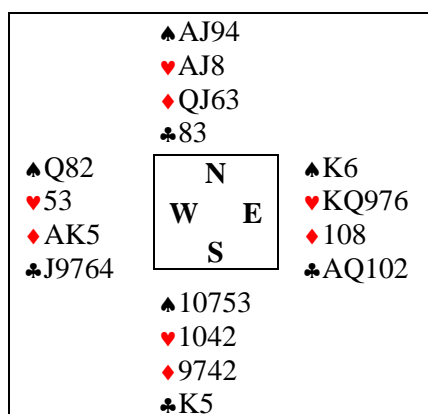
This time West leads ♣5. If you play 'Second Hand Low' you will have to win the trick with ♣K. Dummy's ♣J is now bare, and has no chance of taking a trick. Your only chance to make a trick with ♣J is to play it at trick 1, hoping West has ♣Q.

```
            ♣103
           ┌─────────┐
           │    N    │
♣KJ764     │  W   E  │       ♣982
           │    S    │
           └─────────┘
            ♣AQ5
```

If West leads low try ♣10 – if it scores West cannot continue clubs.

```
            ♣J2
           ┌─────────┐
           │    N    │
♣KQ53      │  W   E  │       ♣10962
           │    S    │
           └─────────┘
            ♣A74
```

It costs nothing to try ♣J in case West has ♣KQ – this is your only chance to make a trick with ♣J!

```
            ♠AJ94
            ♥AJ8
            ♦QJ63
            ♣83
♠Q82     ┌─────────┐     ♠K6
♥53      │    N    │     ♥KQ976
♦AK5     │  W   E  │     ♦108
♣J9764   │    S    │     ♣AQ102
         └─────────┘
            ♠10753
            ♥1042
            ♦9742
            ♣K5
```

West	East
-	1♥
2♣	3♣
3NT	

East-West reached an ambitious 24-count 3NT. North led ♦3.
Declarer played Second Hand Low, ♦8, South played ♦9 and West won ♦K.
The club finesse lost, South returned a diamond and declarer went one down.

What could he have done?
His only chance was that North had both ♦Q and ♦J: if South has either card he will play it and there are only 2 diamond tricks.
When ♦10 scores he has 3 diamond tricks, and the defence cannot cash enough tricks to defeat the game.