



Lesson 22 Examples

Examples of Counting your Sure Tricks

♠ AQ54
♥ K7
♦ J632
♣ J98

N		
W	E	
	S	

♠ KJ7
♥ AQ3
♦ 10754
♣ KQ2

West is declarer in 3NT, and he has 7 sure tricks:

he has 4 spades and can take ♠K, ♠J ♠A and ♠Q separately (honours from the short hand first)

he has 3 hearts, ♥K, ♥A and ♥Q (unless he discards ♥3 on ♠Q!)

he has no sure tricks in clubs or diamonds without giving up the lead

West plays in 3NT he needs to **develop** two more tricks for his contract.

The obvious Work Suit is clubs. If he plays ♣K and an opponent wins ♣A he has two more Sure Tricks with ♣Q and ♣J

How many Sure Tricks has declarer in these examples?

♠ K75
♥ Q1082
♦ AQ
♣ KJ43

N		
W	E	
	S	

♠ 9842
♥ K73
♦ KJ
♣ AQ65

(6, 2 in diamonds and 4 in clubs)

♠ AK4
♥ K952
♦ KQJ3
♣ 76

N		
W	E	
	S	

♠ Q7
♥ AQ6
♦ A4
♣ QJ853

(10, 3 in spades, 3 in hearts, 4 in diamonds.

Perhaps a 4th heart trick if North and South have 3 each)

A complete hand

♠ Q10862
♥ 10743
♦ A9
♣ KJ

N		
W	E	
	S	

♠ 93
♥ AQ2
♦ KJ74
♣ 10865

♠ 754
♥ J86
♦ Q65
♣ Q932

♠ AKJ
♥ K95
♦ 10832
♣ A74

South plays 3NT.

West leads ♠6, North ♠3, East ♠4, South ♠J. A good start.

Declarer counts 7 sure tricks, but if he thinks “I will take my winners now” he is on the wrong track – *Winners can wait*.

Diamonds are the suit where the two extra tricks can be developed, and that is the Work Suit, the suit to play.

At trick 2 play ♦2 to ♦9, ♦J and ♦Q.

East is on lead and returns partner's suit, spades.

South wins and plays diamonds again. ♦3, ♦A. ♦4, ♦5.

Each side has taken two tricks and West is on lead.

Whatever suit he plays South can win – ***because he has kept a high card in every suit!***

Say West plays a third spade: South wins ♠K and cashes the 2 Diamond tricks he has developed, then his other winners.



The Play in NT Contracts

Establishing Tricks in Defence

<p> ♠ A8 ♥ Q64 ♦ 1075 ♣ AQ982 </p>			
♠ J106 ♥ K53 ♦ AQ962 ♣ 65	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7543 ♥ J1092 ♦ J4 ♣ K73	
<p> ♠ KQ92 ♥ A87 ♦ K83 ♣ J104 </p>			
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

South plays 3NT after an auction that has told West very little. He leads his longest suit, diamonds. What he must NOT do is to lead ♦A – it is best to lead a low one. (Remember – a low card promises an honour)

North plays ♦5 and East ♦J, Third Hand High. South takes ♦K. Declarer counts his Sure Tricks (5) and chooses clubs as his Work Suit. He hopes West has ♣K, so he can make extra club tricks by finessing. He leads ♣J to ♣5, ♣2 – and East wins ♣K. If East had to make the opening lead he would choose ♥J. But partner led a diamond, and it is right to return partner's suit if you can. West wins ♦Q, then makes 3 more tricks with ♦A, ♦9 and ♦6 for one down

Can you see why it is wrong to lead ♦A?
 ♦A wins the trick and West plays a second diamond to ♦K. But when East wins ♣K *he has no diamonds left*. There is no **communication** between the East and West hands. East can lead ♥J, but South wins the ace and cashes 9 tricks

Choosing the Most Effective Opening Lead

<p> ♠ K1074 ♥ Q86 ♦ K1074 ♣ 85 </p>			
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>		
West	North	East	South
-	-	-	1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

West is on lead against 1NT with two 4-card suits. Which should he lead?
 The bidding gives him the answer
South bid diamonds, and has at least four of them
 No-one has bid spades – **choose the un-bid suit**.

<p> ♠ 105 ♥ 98762 ♦ K74 ♣ 854 </p>			
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>		
West	North	East	South
-	1♦	1♠	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Partner has overcalled 1♠, showing 5+ playing tricks in spades. It must be right to lead a spade rather than your own longest suit. If you can establish a suit it is partner who will have the entries.
 Lead ♠10, top of a doubleton

<p> ♠ A874 ♥ AQ1053 ♦ 93 ♣ Q7 </p>			
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>		
West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

What has the bidding told West this time?
 North has used Stayman, and South shows 4 hearts. North bids 3NT, so he has 4 spades, not 4 hearts. NS have at least 25 points, leaving not much for East. Hearts look like the best chance for the defence, and West leads a low one in case East has ♥K or ♥J.

<p> ♠ Q74 ♥ 943 ♦ 983 ♣ 10987 </p>			
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>		
West	North	East	South
-	Pass	1♠	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

This time partner has opened the bidding, so he promises only a 4-card suit. But he may easily have more than four so it is a good idea to lead spades anyway.
 Lead ♠4, low from an honour