

Lesson 22 Examples

Examples of Counting your Sure Tricks

♦ AQ54

♥ K7

♦ J632 **4** J98

 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{E} S

♠ KJ7

♥ AO3 **♦** 10754

♣ KQ2

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

he has 4 spades and can take **AK**, **AJ A** and **AQ** separately (honours from the short hand first)

he has 3 hearts, $\forall K$, $\forall A$ and $\forall Q$ (unless he discards $\forall 3$ on $\triangle Q!$) 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 contact. The obvious Work Suit is clubs. If he plays *K and an opponent wins *A he has two more Sure Tricks with *O and *J

How many Sure Tricks has declarer in these examples?

▲ K75

♥ Q1082 ♦ AQ

♣ KJ43

 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{E}

 \mathbf{S}

№ 9842 **♥** K73 ♦ KJ

♣ AQ65

▲ AK4 ♥ K952

 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{E} S

♦ Q7

♥ AQ6 ♦ A4

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♦ KQJ3 ♣ QJ853

(6, 2 in diamonds and 4 in clubs) (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

♠ 93 ♥ AQ2 ♦ KJ74 **4** 10865 **♦** Q10862 **↑** 754 **•** 10743 **♥** J86 \mathbf{W} \mathbf{E} **♦** A9 \mathbf{S} ♦ Q65 ♣ KJ **♣** 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 $\diamond 2$ to $\diamond 9$, $\diamond J$ and $\diamond Q$.

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

South wins and plays diamonds again. 43, A. 44, 5.

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

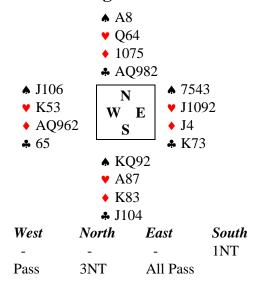
Whatever suit he plays South can win – because he has kept a high card in every suit!

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



South plays 3NT after an auction that has told West very little. He leads his <u>longest suit</u>, diamonds.

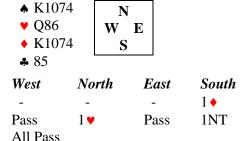
What he must NOT do is to lead \bullet A – it is best to lead a low one. (Remember – a low card promises an honour)

North plays ◆5 and East ◆J, <u>Third Hand High</u>. South takes ◆K. Declarer <u>counts his Sure Tricks</u> (5) and chooses clubs as his <u>Work Suit</u>. He hopes West has **&**K, so he can make extra club tricks by <u>finessing</u>. He leads **&**J to **&**5, **&**2 – and East wins **&**K. If East had to make the <u>opening lead</u> he would choose ♥J. But partner led a diamond, and it is right to <u>return partner's suit</u> 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

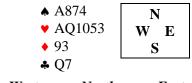
Choosing the Most Effective Opening Lead



West is on lead against 1NT with two 4-card suits Which should he lead?

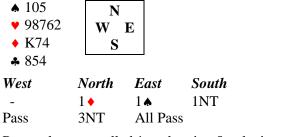
The bidding gives him the answer

South bid diamonds, and has at least four of them No-one has bid spades - **choose the un-bid suit.**



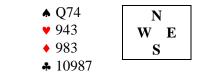
| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| - | - | Pass | 1NT |
| Pass | 2♣ | Pass | 2 🕶 |
| Pass | 3NT | All Pass | |

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 $\forall K$ or $\forall J$.



Partner has overcalled 1 \(\blacktriangle \), 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



| 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