

1. Your partner leads the 4 of spades against a suit contract. You know from the bidding partner has at least four or five clubs and diamonds. The contract is four hearts. Which card should you play?

Q32

AJ10975

Play the nine. The nine is the lowest of three touching honors. Partner may have a singleton and playing the ace and another spade may give partner a ruff but playing the nine will hold declarer to one trick in the suit for sure.

2 Dummy has QJ109 of a suit and leads the Queen. You have the following cards: K842. Should we cover an honor with an honor and play the king?

Do not cover an honor with an honor when it is obvious there is no gain in the play. You must hope that declarer will have to play the ace, leaving you with a possible winner and/or forcing declarer to have to ruff.

3. Dummy has KQJ10974 of diamonds and two other likely side entries you can see. You have the Ace and six of diamonds. Which card should we play?

When you see two other likely entries to dummy there is not reason to hold up. It may even cost you a trick as declarer will apply a ruffing finesse. (ask me about it)

4. Dummy has KQ3 of hearts and leads the king. You have A1098 of hearts which card should you play?

Play the ace. Aces are designed to take kings so take it!

5. Partner leads the three of diamonds on opening lead against three no trump. Dummy has Q874 of that suit. You have A965. Which card should you play after declarer plays the four?

Play the five. Using the rule of eleven you subtract the partner's three spot from 11 which will tell you that there are eight cards higher than partner's spot between you the dummy and declarer. Since there are four cards higher in dummy and you have four cards higher than partner's three you know declarer does not have any higher card than the three. He has either the two or is void. My next question would be how did declarer get into such a horrible looking contract.

6. On opening lead in a no trump contract partner leads the four of hearts won by declarer in his hand with the jack of hearts. The dummy has no honors in hearts but has the king of clubs three times. You have a baby heart and QJ10987 of clubs in your hand. The dummy has 8762 of hearts and you had ten and five doubleton. What should you lead given only that information?

For a lot of reasons return your partner's suit. Remember that it is your best interest to not keep leading new suits for declarer. While the queen of clubs looks attractive, declarer will probably be relieved he can be assured of a trick. Now why the heart return? What do we know? Using the rule of eleven again we know that declarer only has one more card higher than partner's four of clubs. Hopefully, it is not the ace and partner will be able to score several tricks.

7. True or false. Lead as many different suits as possible when you are on defense?

False. Remember, it is the declarer's job to encourage defenders to break new suits and the defender's job to refrain from breaking them. Always make that dastardly declarer do their own work.

8. Which of the following types of leads is usually the most dangerous in general in the middle of a hand when playing defense? 1. Leading trumps 2. Leading a suit declarer will likely ruff. 3. Leading a new suit

After seven, eight should be easy. The answer is three – leading a new suit.

9. If you are defending a contract where you and your partner have bid spades strongly and dummy has played both cards in that suit. In the middle of the hand you are stuck for a lead. Declarer has not played spades since the opening two tricks. Declarer has drawn trumps. Should you lead another spade?

Be very hesitant to lead spades again as a general rule. When you do this oftentimes you are giving declarer a sluff and a ruff. Declarer gets to throw a loser in one hand while ruffing in another.

10. You have AK42 of a suit and dummy has QJ53. When you lead the ace partner plays the eight. What should you do next?

Play the king. Partner probably has two cards in the suit and on the third card he will get a ruff. Of course it is possible partner has the 8, the 9 and the 10 on a bad day.