

Suit and card to lead against a Trump contract

Suit to lead (from non-trump suits)	Card to lead	Exceptions	Examples and Effectiveness	
Suit bid by partner	Top card if you have an honour (otherwise lowest)	You would need a very good reason not to (and partner might not play with you again)	Source: Andrew Robson	
Touching honour cards (include 10 as an honour)	Top card	Do not lead from suit with an "internal sequence" such as K, J, 10, 7	AK74	10
			KQJ6	9
			KQ76	8
			QJT4	8
			QJ52	7
Singleton card	No choice		3	9
Longest 3+ card suit with one or more Honours that are not in a sequence	Lowest card	Do not lead from under an Ace	Q952	4
		Avoid leading with 3 cards to the Queen	K752	2
		Avoid leading from suit with Ace and Queen	KJ53	2
		Risky to lead with 4 cards to King or to Jack	AT74	0
Longest suit without an Honour	Second highest card		852	4
Doubleton suit	Highest card		83	5
			J4	2
Do not lead an Ace (without having the King) except against a Slam contract				

Suit and card to lead against a Trump contract

Indication from partner's lead	Action prompted by partner's lead Also take note of Dummy's hand and play since lead
Card led from a suit bid by partner No indication of other cards in the hand of partner	
Card from a suit not bid by partner	
If an honour Partner might have the next highest card in suit (or the Ace if a King was led)	+ Return suit if higher honour cards have been drawn from first round of cards and partner's next card is now a winner
If not an honour	
If a low card Partner might have an honour in suit Partner unlikely to have doubleton Lead could have been a singleton card	+ Return suit for partner to win in suit (if remaining higher honour cards are not in Dummy's hand) or ruff
If a higher, non-honour card Partner unlikely to have an honour in suit Lead could be second highest in 3+ cards that are unlikely to win tricks Lead could be from a doubleton suit Lead could have been a singleton card	- Do not lead back this suit (unless you have a winner) unless you and / or Dummy are long in suit so you think partner led a singleton - return a card for possible ruff

When to lead a trump card

Leading from the Trump suit	
When not to lead a trump:	When to lead a trump:
1 When you have a singleton – partner will have 3 or 4	1 Opponents have made a sacrifice, have less points than you and are hoping to win tricks by ruffing
2 When you have length in trumps	2 Opponents bid 3 or 4 suits, do not have a good match and will need to win tricks by ruffing
	3 Your partner doubled opponents' contract for penalties or passed your take-out double – indicates partner has strong hand in trumps