Leading trumps

Beginners avoid this, because they think that they shouldn’t touch the opposition’s trump suit.

That is not always the case.

When can it work?

* When declarer has bid two suits, and dummy supports the second suit.
* When partner passes your take out double
* When any other lead is worse
* When the opponents have made a sacrifice bid, and suggested fewer points than your own side.

For more experienced players:

* After a conventional bid by opponents. They might only have a two card support for partner.

When not to lead trumps

* When you only have a singleton (This is likely to ruin partner’s holding in trumps e.g. .Q xx)
* When you hold 4 trumps ( It gives too much information to opponents that your own partner has a void)
* When it endangers a potential trump trick.(e.g. having 2-3 trumps 10 xx or J xx, possibly compromising partners holding)
* When the opponent’s bidding suggests strength and tricks. Win your tricks in backhand before they disappear.

Leading Aces and Under-leading aces in trump contracts

* Don’t lead aces unless you also hold the king
* Don’t lead the fourth highest card away from your ace

Reasons

* Opponent may win with singleton king
* Opponent may win with a doubleton headed by king
* Even when partner holds the king, you won’t gain any extra tricks

(and partner probably won’t play it anyway, assuming that declarer would hold the ace, making partner look silly)

* You probably have a better lead

The ONLY situations to consider leading an unsupported ace

* Opponents have bid 3 suits, avoided playing in No Trumps, and ended up in 5 of a minor. Lead the ace of the unbid suit, and expect partner to hold the king.
* On lead against a small slam (maybe the only chance to win a trick)
* The bidding implies that partner is strong in this suit.

 N.B Leading 4th highest card away from ace is usually good in NO TRUMPS