

U3A Bridge Lesson 6: What to Lead?

1. You are West, on lead, here is your hand. What will it be?

S 10 8 3
 H Q J 10 7 2
 D J
 C A Q 7 6

There are two obvious questions: What is the contract? What was the bidding?

(a)	W	N	E	S
		1H	P	1S
	P	2S	P	4S

Suggests J D – no point leading H and not good to lead from A Q

(b)	W	N	E	S
				1S
	P	2D	P	3D
	P	3S	P	4S

Q H is the obvious lead, both opps have Diamonds, could cost trick for partner

(c)	W	N	E	S
				1S
	P	1NT	P	2H
	P	3D	P	3H
	P	3S	P	4S

Lead a trump – Dummy could have 2 S and 1 H, stop ruffs by trump lead

(d)	W	N	E	S
				1S
	P	3D	P	3H
	P	3S	P	4D
	P	4H	P	4S

Difficult – unbid suit? But A Q? Yet auction suggests they don't have C control – otherwise why stop in game on strong bidding? If don't take C now probably won't get it/them at all.

Four hands, four different leads. Listen to the bidding, think, without looking at your hand, what the auction suggests you should NOT lead as well as what you MIGHT lead, then look at you hand and decide.

2. You are West, on lead, here is your hand. What will it be?

S Q J 10 9 3
 H J 6 3
 D 8 7 5
 C Q 8
 Bidding 1NT – 3NT
 Partner holds

C A K J 10 2 BUT you were still correct in leading S, just didn't work this time