

DO YOU RETURN PARTNER'S LEAD?

		QJ75		
		62	Dealer – 1 Diamond	
		AK96	1 Spade	
		K75		
K962				A3
AQ98				J105 Pass
1084	Pass			J753 Pass
82				10963
		1084		
		K743	1 Heart	
		Q2	3 NT	
		AQJ4		

Partner's spade lead is 4th best, hoping to find you with some spade values to set up Tricks for your side. When you win A spades, should you return partner's suit?

		A987	Dealer – 1 Club	
		Q1098	2 Hearts	
		AQ		
		752		
1065				432 Pass
74	Pass			K53 Pass
9873				K1052
KJ63				A108
		KQJ		
		AJ62	1 Heart	
		J64	4 Hearts	
		Q94		

Partner leads the 9 of diamonds. Could it be a singleton? Clearly not, since that would give South a 6 card diamond suit and they opened 1 Club. Looks like partner's lead is from "top of nothing". Dummy plays the Q, you win the K. Should you return a diamond?

Most agree it's extremely difficult and absolutely critical to our success at the table is making a good opening lead. It's a two-part decision. You choose the suit first, then the specific card. Ask yourself a broader question: does this auction call for a passive lead or an aggressive one?

		Q762	Dealer – 1 Diamond		
		KJ5		2 Spades	
		QJ108			
		A6			
93					10
962	Pass				1 Heart
432					AQ1084
QJ1093					Pass
					AK75
					852
		AKJ854			
		73	1 Spade		
		96	4 Spades		
		K74			

You're in the hot seat – YOUR LEAD. What do you lead and why?

		A4	Dealer – 1 Diamond		
		AQ4		3 NT	
		KQJ1097			
		Q3			
J9863					1052
J108	Pass				Pass
A	Pass				9732
KJ102					8432
					A9
		KQ7			
		K65	1 NT		
		65	Pass		
		87654			

You lead the 6 of spades, dummy plays the 4, partner plays the 2. Declarer leads the 6 of Diamonds, you win your Ace. What do you lead and why?

You must shift to the club 2. THIS SHOWS INTEREST. If you want partner to win and lead a spade through declarer, you'd play a bigger club. A low club send the message, I changed my mind. I no longer like the first suit I led. Partner should win the Ace of clubs and return the 9.

		J54			
		A654	Dealer – 1 Club		
		84		3 Hearts	
		AKQ7			
72					AKQ63
K98	Pass				1 Spade
K7653	Lead 7 spades				3
964					Pass
					J1092
					853
		1098			
		QJ1072	2 Hearts		
		AQ	4 hearts		
		J102			