

DISCOVERING WHERE CARDS LIE

In general if partner leads a suit (and he is not already winning the trick), we do our best to win the trick.

e.g. 7,6,5 (Dummy)

3 Led Q,10,8 (Our hand) We do our best to win the
trick by playing the Q .

 7,6,5 (Dummy)

3 Led K,J,8 (Our hand) Play the K.

Here is an important principle between being on lead and being the person who is following suit.... If the person leading the suit has three equal cards e.g. Q,J,10 the correct card to lead is the Q (Top of a sequence)

The person FOLLOWING the suit should play the 10 (The lower of equal cards) whilst STILL trying to win the trick.

a) 7,6,5

b) 7,6,5

3 Led J,10,9 (Play the 9)

3 Led J,10,8 (Play the 10)

Following the general rule (try to win the trick) and the two principles (Leader will lead the highest of touching cards and follower will play the lowest of touching cards whilst still trying to win the trick, it is possible to work out important cards in partner's and declarer's hand. This also tells us, once we get back in, should we continue the original suit led or wait for partner (or sometimes declarer) to lead the suit for us.

c) 7,6,3

d) 7,6,3

K,10,5,4,2 (4 led) 9 played

Q,8,5,4,2 (4 led) 9 played

 Q played

 K played

Here is the question the initial leader has to ask himself if he gets back in "is it safe to lead the suit again or should I wait for partner (or declarer) to lead it?"

It follows that the person playing third cannot have the next lower card

4,2 (Dummy)		752 (Dummy)	
J,8,6,5,3 (5 Led)	10	K,9,6,3 (3 Led)	J
K		Q	
Who has the A?		Who has the A?	
Who has the 9?		Who has the 10?	

A,6,4 (Dummy)		A,6,4	
Q,8,5,3,2 (3 Led)	J	K,8,5,3,2 (3 Led)	J
K		Q	
Who has the 10?		Who has the 10?	

If partner leads a honour and you hold a honour doubleton, you should normally play your honour to unblock the suit unless you can see that this gives declarer an extra trick.....

6,4,2		10,4,2	
Q Led	K,9 (Play the K)	Q Led	K,5 (Play the 5)

If on the lead of a suit Dummy plays high and you are unable to beat Dummy's card, the card you play is a signal to your partner.....

A,6,4		
5 Led	K,8,2	The 8 should be played to encourage the suit to be led again.
A,6,4		
5 Led	8,7,2	The 2 should be played to say that you cannot help In the suit led.