

Leads against suits

The play of the hands is a contest between the opposing sides in establishing and then cashing winning tricks.

The first lead allows the player to provide information to their partner on the features of their hand.

Below are some guiding principles for the first lead:

- Suit Preference:
 - If partner has bid, strongly consider leading this suit.
 - If partner has not bid, prefer to lead an unbid suit.
 - If you must lead a suit bid by the opposition prefer the suit bid by dummy as you will be leading through that holding to your partner.
 - Never lead away from an Ace.
 - Also try to avoid leading the ace without the king – try to find another suit.
 - lead a trump if you think there is going to be cross ruffs.
- Card Preference:
 - From any honour sequence always lead the top honour, eg QJ106 lead the Q
 - Top card of interior sequence, with KJ1085 lead J.
 - Top of a doubleton.
 - From any four or more card suit headed by an honour, lead 4th highest, eg Q9654 lead the 5.
 - From a 3 or longer suit without an honour lead 2nd highest.

You are East. What do you lead?

West	North	East	South	♠ 5 ♥ A K 9 7 6 5 2 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ 6 2	Opportunity to see if partner can ruff a heart. Best to cash early as will not make a trick in late game.
All pass	1 ♠	3 ♥	4 ♠		

West	North	East	South	♠ 8 5 3 ♥ K 10 6 ♦ A 6 3 2 ♣ J 5 2	Prefer not to lead away from and A or K.
All pass	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠		

West	North	East	South	♠ 7 ♥ J 7 5 4 3 2 ♦ Q J 8 5 ♣ J 7	Doubleton top
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦		
All pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠		

West	North	East	South	♠ Q 9 5 2 ♥ A 10 9 6 3 ♦ 5 ♣ J 4 3	Singleton
All pass	1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠		

West	North	East	South	♠ K 6 ♥ 10 9 8 6 4 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ J 9 5	Top of a sequence
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣		
All pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠		

More Info:

<https://www.abf.com.au/education/opening-leads/>