

Opening Leads Exercise

	South	North	Your hand	What would you lead and why?
1	1NT	3NT	♠ 9 4 2 ♥ K J 7 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 6 2	
2	1NT	3NT	♠ A 4 2 ♥ K J 7 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 6 2	
3	1NT	3NT	♠ 9 4 2 ♥ K Q J 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 6 2	
4	1NT	3NT	♠ J 10 9 2 ♥ J 10 3 2 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ 9 5	
5	1NT	3NT	♠ J 10 3 ♥ A 8 6 3 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ 8 3 2	
6	1NT 3NT	3♥	♠ J 10 3 ♥ A 8 6 3 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ 8 3 2 10 3	
7	1♠ 4♠	3♠	♠ 9 8 6 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 7 4 3 2 ♣ A Q 4 3	
8	1♠	3♠	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A K 5 3 2 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ A 6 2	
9	1♠	4♠	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A K 5 3 2 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ 10 6	
10	1NT	3NT	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A K 5 3 2 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ 10 6	

Opening Leads Exercise - Answers

	South	North	Your hand	What would you lead and why?
1	1NT	3NT	♠ 9 4 2 ♥ K J 7 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 6 2	4th highest from two non-touching honours. Partner may have one of the missing honours and even win 1st trick (declarer may duck) and continue the suit. You hope to get back in with ♦A.
2	1NT	3NT	♠ A 4 2 ♥ K J 7 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 6 2	4th highest from two non-touching honours. Partner may have one of the missing honours, you have two chances of getting back in
3	1NT	3NT	♠ 9 4 2 ♥ K Q J 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♣ 6 2	Top of a solid sequence. Continue with hearts, declarer will probably win A at some point but you may win ♦A later and cash hearts.
4	1NT	3NT	♠ J 10 9 2 ♥ J 10 3 2 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ 9 5	Top of a sequence. Spades are stronger than hearts.
5	1NT	3NT	♠ J 10 3 ♥ A 8 6 3 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ 8 3 2	4th highest of your longest and strongest. Partner may have ♥K Q 4 and you take the first five tricks!
6	1NT 3NT	3♥	♠ J 10 3 ♥ A 8 6 3 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ 8 3 2	North has bid hearts so don't lead them. Top of two touching honours. If you are lucky, your partner has good spades.
7	1♠ 4♠	3♠	♠ 9 8 6 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 7 4 3 2 ♣ A Q 4 3	NS have 25+. You have 8. Partner has at most 7 and if you are lucky wins 1st trick and returns a heart for a ruff.
8	1♠	3♠	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A 7 5 4 ♦ A 4 3 ♣ A 6 2	Don't lead from unsupported Aces. Lead a trump. MUD.
9	1♠	4♠	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A K 5 3 2 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ 10 6	Cash the AK. If opps have 3 hearts each, partner has two and plays HiLo to show you that and you lead another heart for partner to ruff. Partner may have another winner too 🍀.
10	1NT	3NT	♠ 9 4 3 ♥ A K 5 3 2 ♦ 8 3 2 ♣ 10 6	Fourth highest against no trumps looking to set up the suit when partner eventually gets in and returns the suit.