

LEADS AGAINST NO-TRUMP CONTRACTS

THE OPENING LEAD

Remember the bidding! If partner has bid a suit you should lead his suit unless you have a **very** good lead of your own. If the enemy has bid a suit, you should avoid leading that suit unless you have a strong holding that is safe to lead.

In most situations, the bidding will not reveal an obvious lead, so the choice must be based on your hand. The following is the recommended priority in choosing the suit:

1. If partner has bid lead Partner's suit to establish the suit

- With 2 Cards
 - Lead your top card from any doubleton 6-x or K x
- With 3 Cards
 - Lead the honour from touching honours K-Q-x
 - Lead 3 to a non-touching honour K-x-x or K J x
 - Middle card from no honours (M.U.D) 9 5 3
- With 4 or more Cards
 - Lead the honour from touching honours Q-J-x x
 - Lead 4th highest from honours Q-x-x-x
 - 2nd highest from no honours 8 6 4 3

2. Own suit - lead from your longest suit to establish the suit

- With 3 or more honours
 - Lead the top of the sequence K Q J, A-J-10, Q-J-9, I-10-9.
When you lead an honour card it promises the card immediately lower than it and denies the card immediately above it.
- With less than 3 honours or without a sequence
 - Lead the 4th highest card K-x x -x x, A J x x, T x x x
- With no honours
 - Lead the 2nd highest card from x x x x x

3. Lead the unbid suit

4. Lead Dummy's suit - Lead through strength

EXERCISES

Exercise 1: What card do you lead against a notrump contract with the hand shown?

♠ 10 9 7 6 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ A 9 4 3 ♣ K Q

with the bidding these bidding sequences

- A. The contract is 3NT and your partner overcalled ♥ during the auction.
- B. The contract is 1NT with no bidding from your side.
- C. The contract is 3NT after one of the opponents opened the bidding 1 ♠
- D. The contract is 6NT

Exercise 2: What card do you lead in your partner's suit against a notrump contract?

A.

	DUMMY	
	9 6 2	
YOU		PARTNER
J 3		K Q 8 7 5
	DECLARER	
	A 10 4	

B.

	DUMMY	
	K 8 5	
YOU		PARTNER
Q J 3		A 10 9 6 2
	DECLARER	
	7 4	

C.

	DUMMY	
	9 6	
YOU		PARTNER
Q 7 5		A 10 8 4 2
	DECLARER	
	K J 3	

Exercise 3: Which is the best card to lead in your own suit against a NT contract?

How many tricks can your side develop from the suit? What must the defenders do to ensure that they take all of the tricks they have coming?

A.

YOU	DUMMY	PARTNER
J 10 9 6	K 3	A 7 5 2
	DECLARER	
	Q 8 4	

B.

YOU	DUMMY	PARTNER
Q J 9 6 3	A 7	8 4 2
	DECLARER	
	K 10 5	

C.

YOU	DUMMY	PARTNER
A J 10 4 3	K 2	8 7 6
	DECLARER	
	Q 9 5	

D.

YOU	DUMMY	PARTNER
K Q J 8 3	7 4	A 6 2
	DECLARER	
	10 9 5	

Exercise 4: Which is the best card to lead in your own suit against a NT contract? How many tricks can your side develop from the suit? What must the defenders do to ensure that they take all of the tricks they have coming?"

A.

YOU	DUMMY	PARTNER
K 9 8 7 2	6 5	J 4 3
	DECLARER	
	A Q 10	

B.

	DUMMY	
	A 2	
YOU		PARTNER
Q 7 6 3		K 8 5 4
	DECLARER	
	J 10 9	

C.

	DUMMY	
	8 7 5	
	A 2	
YOU		PARTNER
A Q 4 3 2		K J
	DECLARER	
	10 9 6	

Exercise 5: Which is the best card to lead if by the opponent on your right bid 1 NT and everybody passes?

A	B	C
♠ A K	♠ J 9 6 3	♠ A J 8 6 5 2
♥ Q 10 8 4 3	♥ Q 4	♥ K 8 3
♦ J 9 5	♦ Q J 10 5	♦ 8 4
♣ 7 4 2	♣ K 8 3	♣ 9 2

Exercise 6: Which is the best card to lead after the following auction?

NORTH (DUMMY)	EAST (PARTNER)	SOUTH (DECLARER)	WEST (YOU)
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass

A	B	C
♠ 7 4	♠ Q 6 5 2	♠ 6 3
♥ K Q 8 3	♥ Q 8 4	♥ J 9 4 2
♦ K J 6 2	♦ J 10 9	♦ Q 8 3
♣ 9 8 5	♣ J 8 3	♣ K Q J 10