

# Defensive Strategies - Part 2

**My friend Joe recently went on the Dolly Parton diet. It really made Joe lean, Joe lean, Joe lean, Joe lean.**



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# Time for a Joke

Saw this and thought we could all  
use a laugh

Snow White, Superman and Pinocchio are out for a stroll in town one day.

As they walk, they come across a sign: "Beauty contest for the most beautiful woman in the world."

"I'm entering" says Snow White.

After half an hour she comes out and they ask her, "Well, how did you do?"

"First Place," says Snow White.

They continue walking and they see a sign: "Contest for the strongest man in the world."

"I'm entering," says Superman.

After half an hour he returns and they ask him, "How did you make out?"

"First Place," answers Superman. "Did you ever doubt?"

They continue walking when they see a sign: "Contest! Who is the greatest liar in the world?"

Pinocchio says "this is mine"

Half an hour later, he returns with tears in his eyes.

"What happened?" they ask.

"Who the hell is Donald Trump?" asks Pinocchio

# Defensive Strategies



There are **five** primary lines of defense:

- ✓ 1) Forcing Declarer to Lose Control
- ✓ 2) Being Active
- 3) Being Passive
- 4) Cutting Down Dummy's Ruffing Power
- 5) Creating Trump Tricks

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In support of these defensive strategies are:

- Inferences from Bidding or Play
- Counting Points and Distribution
- Counting Tricks
- Defensive Signal

## 3) Being Passive



### 3) BEING PASSIVE

This is when defenders don't snatch winners or break suits for declarer. When they are on lead, they choose worthless suits, or top of a sequence, or some other suit that will not give declarer anything. Most experts would rather not risk doing the declarer's work for him. Conditions include:

- No evidence of a strong, running side suit for declarer or
- Declarer is very strong, dummy is very weak or
- A misfit or bad split in key suits or
- No real suit to lead against notrump or
- Defending 6NT and grand slams.

Experts are passive when the dummy is flat and weak, simply returning declarer's leads or otherwise endplaying him.

Similarly on misfits, experts will make the most innocuous lead possible or remove any ruffing power in the dummy.

# Hand #3

## Being Passive



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1H	Pass
2H	Pass	3H	Pass
4H	Pass	Pass	Pass

Dealer: S

Lead: 6♥

North  
 ♠ K863  
 ♥ J1052  
 ♦ KQ  
 ♣ 874

West  
 ♠ A54  
 ♥ 876  
 ♦ A98  
 ♣ K1032

This is a good example of a Passive Lead.

East  
 ♠ J109  
 ♥ 9  
 ♦ J105432  
 ♣ J96

South  
 ♠ Q72  
 ♥ AKQ43  
 ♦ 76  
 ♣ AQ5

## 4) Lead Trumps



### 4) LEAD TRUMPS

**Cutting down dummy's ruffing power can be a good defense. Conditions are:**

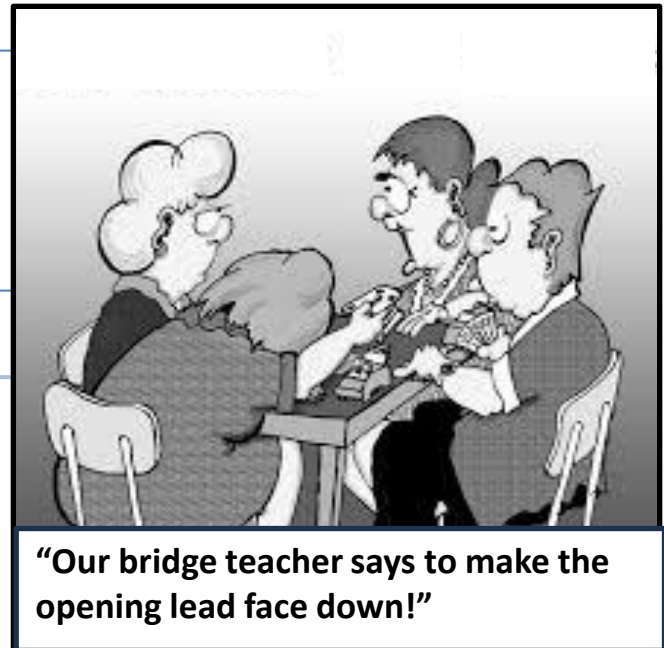
- **They have a partial/total misfit or**
- **You control opponents' side suit or**
- **You control all other suits or**
- **The bidding suggests shortness in the dummy.**

**The important factor is that declarer can't pitch his losers on a side suit.**



# Hand #4

## Lead Trumps



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1S	Pass
1NT	Pass	2S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North

♠ 43
♥ Q5
♦ Q7643
♣ K832

**Dealer: S**

**Lead: 3♥**

West

♠ K9
♥ 10843
♦ A9
♣ 109754

East

♠ 765
♥ AKJ2
♦ KJ108
♣ Q6

♠ AQJ1082
♥ 976
♦ 52
♣ AJ

**By you clearing the trumps off the Dummy, South will lose 1 ♠, 3 ♥'s and 2 ♦'s for down one in 2S.**

# Another Joke

I once dated a girl with a twin and people always asked me how I could tell them apart... It was simple, Alison painted her nails red and Bob had a beard...



## 5) Creating Trump Tricks



UPPERCUT

### 5) CREATING TRUMP TRICKS

Both ruffing declarer's good tricks and promoting your own trump tricks are usually a plus. Conditions are:

- You are short in any unbid, side suit or
- You're long in a side suit opponents bid and raised or
- A trump promotion or
- A trump uppercut.

Try to get a ruff by leading your short suit, or one you suspect from the auction that your partner is short in.

A trump promotion is when declarer is placed in a position where he must ruff high and, in so doing, promote a trump trick for the defenders.

A trump uppercut is when you ruff high, forcing declarer to overruff, setting up a trump trick for your partner.

## 5) Creating Trump Tricks



UPPERCUT

### 5) CREATING TRUMP TRICKS

**NB: Experts tend to only go for ruffs on 3 conditions:**

- When they have no natural trump tricks of their own.
- When they can reasonably expect an entry in partner's hand to get the ruff (possession of a high trump honor, for example).
- When there are no other prospects for the defense.

# Hand #5

## The Uppercut



**UPPERCUT**

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1S	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North

♠ 10975
♥ <b>A</b>
♦ 6
♣ ---

East

♠ <b>J</b>
♥ ---
♦ 32
♣ 95

West

♠ Q6
♥ <b>6</b>
♦ 54
♣ 8

**Dealer: S**

♠ <b>A</b> K843
♥ ---
♦ A
♣ ---

By you clearing the trumps off the Dummy, South will lose 1 ♠, 3 ♥'s and 2 ♦'s for down one in 2S.



**“Egad! We must find some means of discarding the hideous thing!”**

**Time for the Game**