

HAPPY NEW YEAR

When you are on defense, does your partner try to signal to you?

Does partner watch and attempt to interpret your signals?

Do you signal carefully to your partner?

Do you watch and evaluate your partner's signals?

Sometimes it can be difficult deciding how to signal.

No one gets every deal right.

KQ52 2 Clubs

1065 3 NT

10974

AQ

74 Pass

AQ943 Pass

K6 Pass

8653

J1098 Pass

872 Pass

32

K1094

A63 Dealer – 1 NT

KJ 2 Diamonds

AQJ85 Pass

J72

West leads the 4 of hearts, declarer plays the 5, you (East) should play the heart deuce to give partner count. Declarer will win the Jack and cross to dummy with A spade to the King, and run the 10 of diamonds.

Knowing declarer has a doubleton heart (it cannot be four as he denied a four-card major in the auction), it should not be difficult for West to win the K of diamonds and put the Ace of hearts on the table: down one.

That's why it's important for East to give count, playing the 7 or 8 is equal to the 4.

When the opponent's bidding indicates they have balanced hands, it's often best to defend passively. Make safe leads and don't break new suits.

On the other hand, it generally pays to be aggressive if the bidding indicates the opponents have long suits that will produce a lot of tricks.

Do not signal unnecessarily. Instead, when discarding, pitch cards that do you no good and serve to show no interest in that suit.

AJ2 3 NT
J72
QJ1098
95

763
84 Pass
A63 Pass
A10876

1095 Pass
KQ109
72
Q432

KQ84
A653 Dealer – 1 NT
K54 Pass
KJ

West leads the 7 of clubs, declarer plays the 5, East plays the Q, declarer wins the K. Declarer leads the K of diamonds, West plays the 3, dummy the 8, East gives count with the 7. Declarer leads the 5 of diamonds, West plays the 6, dummy plays the Q, East plays the 2. Declarer leads the 3rd diamond from Dummy, what should East discard? East should discard the 2 of clubs, remaining count to show that he started with 4 – the Q played at trick one and now three remaining. East would never pitch his last card in your suit, so he cannot have started with two. The light bulb goes off in West's head. South began with only two clubs, cash you're a of clubs and run the rest of the suit.

When you are a defender:

1. Cover an honor only when there is a chance to promote a card in your own hand or in partner's hand.
2. When declarer leads from touching honors (such as Q-J-10), cover the second honor unless you are short in the suit, in which case you should cover the first honor.
3. "Second hand low" is a good rule MOST of the time, as with almost all things in bridge, there are exceptions.
4. In suit contracts, consider leading a trump when the auction suggests that the opponents have cross-ruffing possibilities. But avoid leading a singleton trump and don't lead a trump just because you're afraid to lead something else.
5. If you are ruffing and declarer is overruffing, you may ruff high to promote a trump trick for partner.
6. If dummy has a long suit that can be established, good defenders will attempt to knock out dummy's entries before the suit can be set up.
7. Don't lead unsupportive aces. When in doubt about what to lead, lead 4th best in your longest suit. Leading from length is the "standard" lead to a NT contract, and often the safest lead in a suit contract.