

1 LEADS ♠♥♦♣

General Principles - looking to give partner information

- If partner has bid lead their suit
- Lead low if have honour in suit, lead high if nothing. (AKQJ10 are called honours)
- Top of sequence leads are typically good. (KQx - KQ is called a sequence, AKQx - sequence of 3)
- With a doubleton lead high low (so 8 from 83)
- Typically do not lead opponent's bid suit(s)

Against Suit Contracts

- Q963 - lead fourth highest
- KQ75 - top of touching honours (only need 2 honours). Tells partner you have Q but not the A
- A754 - Do not lead away from an Ace. Try to find another suit to lead but, if have to lead that suit, play Ace

Against No Trump contracts

- Q963 - same rule as against suits (4th highest)
- KQJ75 - need sequence of 3 in NT; (near sequence is fine KQ1075). Look to establish a long suit.
- A754 - OK to lead away from Ace In NT

♠ 5 4 ♥ K Q J 7 4 ♦ A 6 2 ♣ 10 9 8 Lead ♥K - looking to drive out ♥ A then run ♥s	♠ 5 4 ♥ K J 7 4 3 ♦ A 6 2 ♣ 10 9 8 Lead ♥4 - 4th highest & hope partner can help
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Opening Leads

When card led is the same, whether the contract is suits or no trumps, the background is yellow.
 When the card led is different, then the background is grey.
 Special case, then the background is green.



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				<p>Exactly 2 cards in the suit:</p> <p>NT: Avoid this lead.</p>									

2 MORE ON LEADS

2.1 Leads against No Trumps (typically look to use length against NT)

Which suit?

- If partner bids lead their suit unless have a good reason not to (ie very strong suit of your own)
- Unless no entries to your hand, leading your long suit is best. Lead the top of a sequence => techniques promotion & length
- Lead 4th highest of longest & strongest suit, (if no sequence at the top) => technique length
- Lead suits that have not been bid by declarer or dummy
- If bidding goes 1NT 3NT tend to lead a major as opponents have not used Stayman / Transfers

“You are on lead against an NT contract with ♠ 109762 ♥ 86 ♦ A943 ♣ KQ

1) The contract is 3NT & your partner overcalled in hearts during the auction. Lead ♥8

2) The contract is 1NT with no bidding from your side. Lead ♠6

3) The contract is 3NT after one of the opponents opened the bidding 1S. Lead ♦3

2.2 Standard Leads Against No Trumps

- Leading Partner's Suit
 - J3 - top of doubleton
 - QJ3 - top of touching honours (or KJ10)
 - Q75 - with no sequence lead low (or 973 or A854)
- Partner has not bid
 - KQJ53 - top of sequence
 - QJ975 - broken sequence
 - AQ432 - 4th highest of longest & strongest suit
 - Q72 - low from 3 cards to an honour
 - 106 - top of doubleton
 - A864 - OK to lead away from Ace in NT so lead 4th highest, 4

Opening Leads against Suits

- Lead Partner's suit **as a priority** if they have bid
- Sequence leads are typically good, so **A** from AK or **K** from KQ

Standard Leads against Suit Contracts

- Top card of touching honours, from ♦KQ75 lead ♦K. Only need 2 honours to lead the top.
- Top of a doubleton, from ♦97, lead the ♦9
- Lead fourth highest, from ♠Q963 lead ♠3 if have honour.
- Lead **low** from an honour (not the ace), from ♥Q105, lead ♥5.
- AK742 - lead A; against NT lead 4
- AJ1093 - lead A (though consider leading another suit first). **DO NOT UNDERLEAD AN ACE.** (Against NT lead J)
- KQ973 - NT 7, suit lead K (if declarer takes with A then Partner can get to your hand with Q)
- If have raised partner still lead low from honour but, now, high from 973 (as already told partner have 3 cards)

- Don't lead away from an Ace (unless have K) in suit contract as declarer may make singleton king. If have to play that suit play the Ace
- Consider a singleton lead if chance partner has Ace &/or you do not have a natural trump trick
- Partner & Declarer should try & interpret the lead - lead of a K infers holds the Q, lead of a 2 in NT infers only 4 cards in the suit (Rule of 11)

What Does Partner's Lead Tell Us?

- Honour card promises the card below (but not the one above)
- Low card may indicate 3+ cards in suit & an honour
- High card (not an honour) may indicate poor suit with no honours

QUIZZES ♠♥♦♣

<p>1. Contract is 4♥ with no other suits bid. Why would you lead a ♣ rather than a ♦?</p> <p>♠J 8 6 ♥9 7 5 ♦Q 8 6 5 4 2 ♣6</p>	<p>2. Contract is 3NT with no other suits bid. What do you lead?</p> <p>♠K J 3 ♥Q J 9 6 ♦Q 9 6 2 ♣J 4</p>	<p>3. Contract is 3NT. What do you lead?</p> <p>♠Q 5 3 ♥J 9 6 2 ♦A Q T 9 ♣J 4</p>
<p>West North East South</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1♥</p> <p>P 2♥ P 4♥</p>	<p>West North East South</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1NT P</p> <p>3NT All Pass</p>	<p>West North East South</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P 1D P</p> <p>2C P 2NT P</p> <p>3NT All Pass</p>
<p>♣6 - Try for a ruff. If partner has ♣A & returns a ♣, you will ruff. Then partner might win a later trick, & you might be able to trump again</p>	<p>♥Q - Without a 5 card suit, it's best to choose our strongest 4 card suit on this auction. With a near sequence of 3 honours, the top card should be led.</p>	<p>♥2 - Our 4 card length in ♦s is much stronger than that in ♥s, but declarer has bid ♦s. We therefore start with our fourth highest ♥.</p>

HANDS

East Deals
NS Vul

♠ Q742	♠ 3	♠ AKJ108
♥ A107	♥ 9843	♥ KJ
♦ J75	♦ AK632	♦ Q1094
♣ KQ6	♣ AJ10	♣ 92


West: 3♣ P
North: P P
East: 1♠ 4♠
South: P P



East Deals
NS Vul

♠ K42	♠ AJ763	♠ 98
♥ KQ3	♥ 854	♥ J1092
♦ Q1096	♦ 875	♦ AKJ2
♣ AK8	♣ 74	♣ Q65

West: 1NT P
North: P P
East: P 3NT
South: P P



Bidding: The opponents bid strongly to game in spades. They will have at least 25 points between them.

Contract: 4♠ East

Lead: ♦8

Defence: Because you have very little reason to expect to take tricks, try a short suit lead, i.e. the singleton diamond. Luckily you find partner with the ♦AK, and they allow you to trump. Then partner takes the ♣A, and you beat the contract.

Score: 4♠ East making 9 tricks: (not vul = -50)

Bidding: The opponents have two balanced hands, enough for game in no trumps.

Contract: 3NT West

Lead: ♠6

Defence: Partner leads their long suit, fourth highest of their longest and strongest. You play your ♠Q. Declarer wins the first trick with the ♠K, and takes four diamond winners. Be VERY careful not to discard a spade. Now declarer plays the ♥K, and you win your ♥A and return the ♠10. Partner now takes four spade tricks, and we beat the contract by one trick.

Score: 3NT making 8 tricks: (not vul = -50)