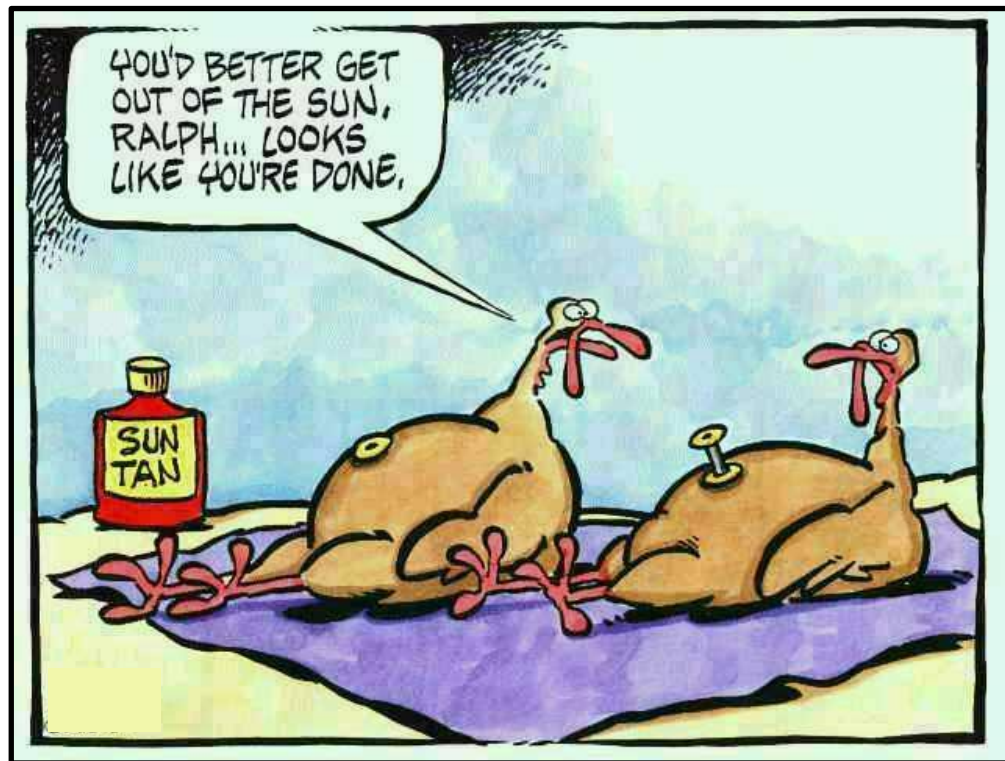
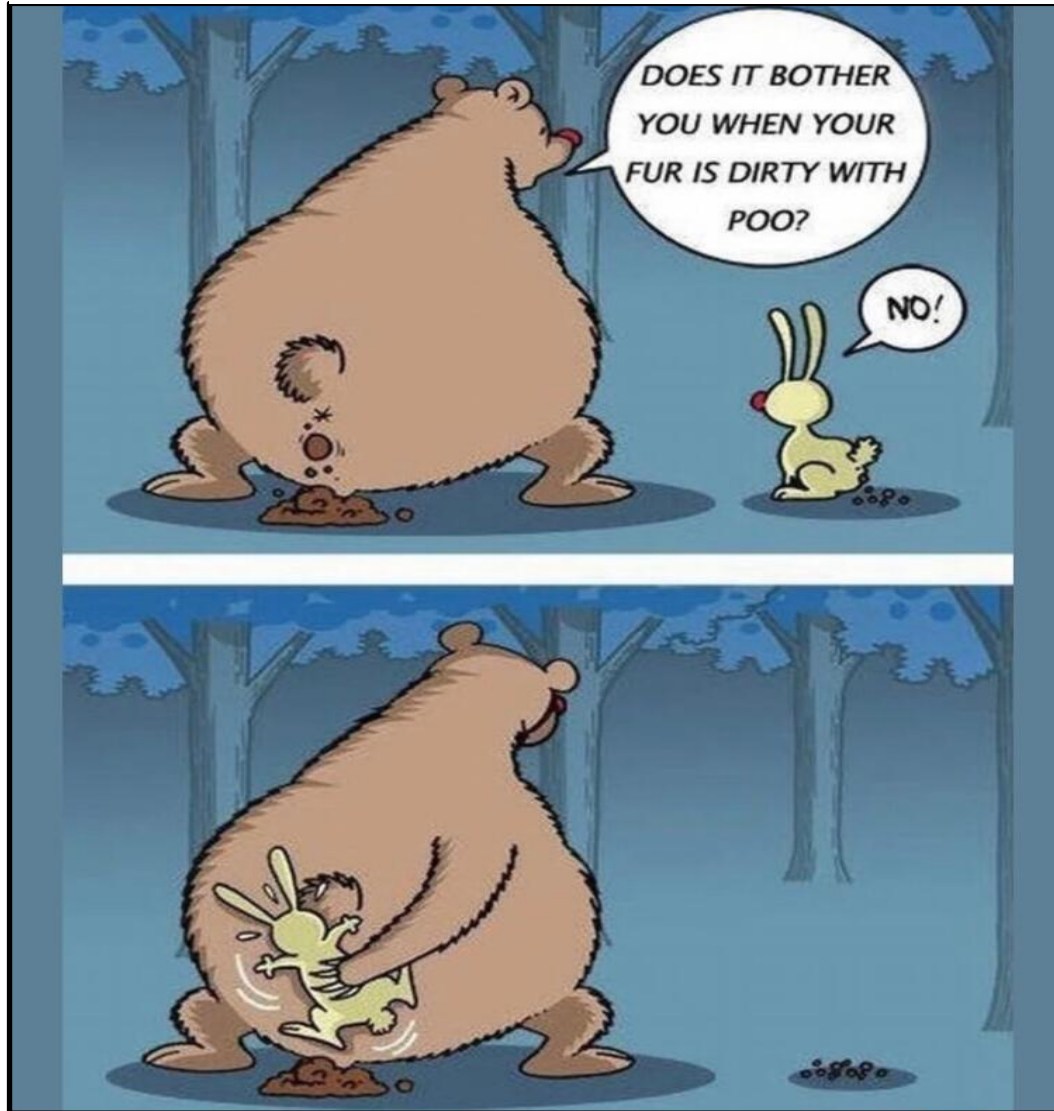


Playing and Defending No Trump



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The Funniest Cartoon of 2022



A bridge player was polishing a lamp and... poof! Out popped a genie.

Time for a Joke

"I will grant you *one* wish," the genie said.

The young man unfolded a map. "Let all of these countries live in peace and harmony."

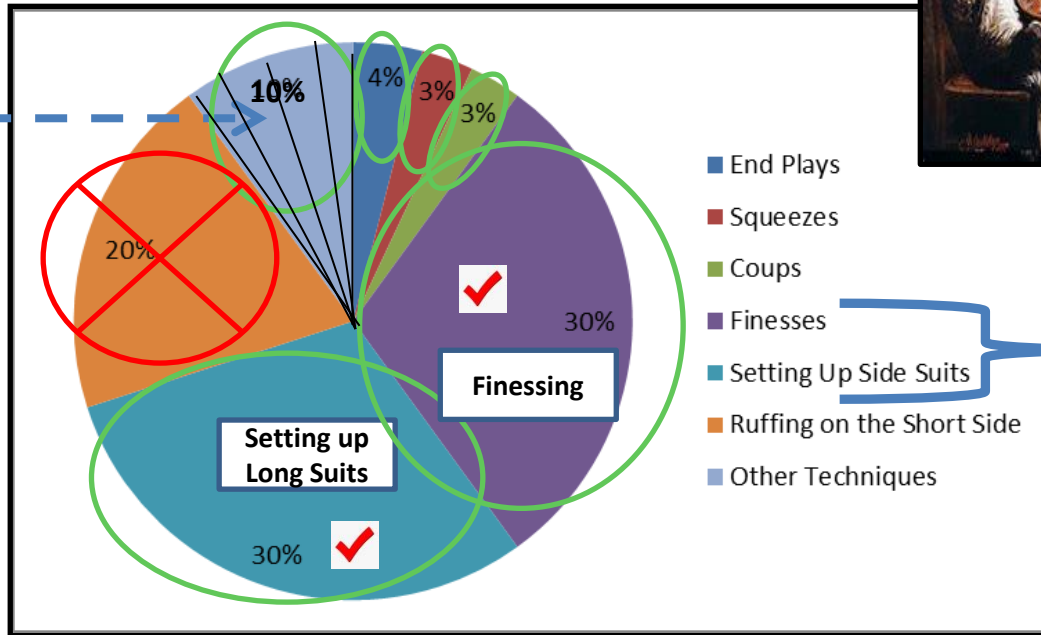
"You've got to be kidding! I'm only a genie," he replied.

The young man thought for a while. "OK, then make me a great bridge player."

"Hmm..." pondered the genie. "Let me see that map again."



Techniques Used in No Trump



75% of all No Trump techniques

Other Techniques include:

- Safety Plays
- Unblocking Plays
- Discovery Plays
- Hold Up Plays

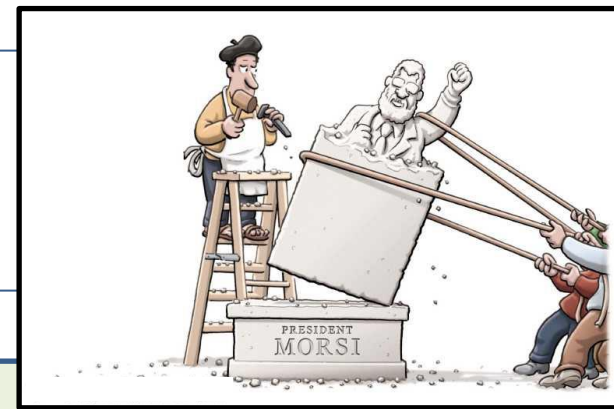
Coups



In bridge, a coup is a generic name for various techniques in play, denoting a specific pattern in the lie and play of cards; it is a special play maneuver by declarer or defender.

Due to bridge's rich history, many coups are named after English and French barons, counts or duchesses throughout history.

Some Kinds of Coups



There are many coups which the opponents can do little to prevent:

Bath Coup: The original coup, is where a player holding the Ace, Jack and small card(s) plays small against the lead of a King-Queen sequence, so as to get two tricks (if the suit is continued) or gain tempo.

Belladonna Coup: The declarer's act of playing the low card from Kx toward Jxx in a suit contract, in order to tangle defender's communications for trumping, ensuring either a trick in the suit or a third-round ruff.

Crocodile Coup: The crocodile coup is a technique used by the defense. It is executed by second hand, following suit with a higher card than apparently necessary, to keep fourth hand from winning and thereby being endplayed.

Deschappelles Coup: The sacrifice of a card that could be an eventual winner (such as an offside King) to establish an entry into partner's hand.

Playing In No Trump

Contract: 3NT

Opening Lead: Q♠

North

♠ A82

♥ AQ987

♦ 53

♣ A87

South

♠ K97

♥ K4

♦ K8764

♣ KQ6

Very few hands will have its immediate losers and immediate winners add up to 13.

1) Count your immediate winners.

2) Plan how you can take more by:

- Setting up long suits
- Finessing

3) Count your plan's potential losers.

4) Plan your transportation between both hands.

The diamond finesse to score the K♦ will work 50% of the time, but, when you hold 7 total cards in the ♥ suit, they will break 3-3 or 4-2 for you 84% of the time.

Playing in No Trump



In No Trump, besides finessing and the rare complex plays, there is really one question Declarer should be considering:

Does either hand have a long suit to set up?

Secondary considerations might include:

- a. If I have more than one long suit, which one will produce more tricks before the opponents run their tricks?
- b. How can I best set that suit up? And is it safer to let one opponent in than the other one?
- c. How do I get back to that long suit?

Leads Against No Trump



- **Passive or Aggressive Lead?**

Passive (rare) - lead out of my hand safely.

AJ82 KQ3 732 AJ3

Aggressive (set up our winners before Declarer can set up his).

Other considerations:

- Did partner bid a suit? Is it right to lead it? (Usually.)
- What suit is partner likely to have?
- Which of us has the entries?

Leading Against No Trump

Defending No Trump is usually a race. You need to knock out Declarer's stopper(s) in your suits before he knocks out your stopper(s) in his suits.

But if your partner went out of his way to bid a suit, you'd better lead that suit. Otherwise, it'll be a long and quiet ride home.

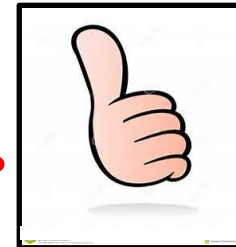
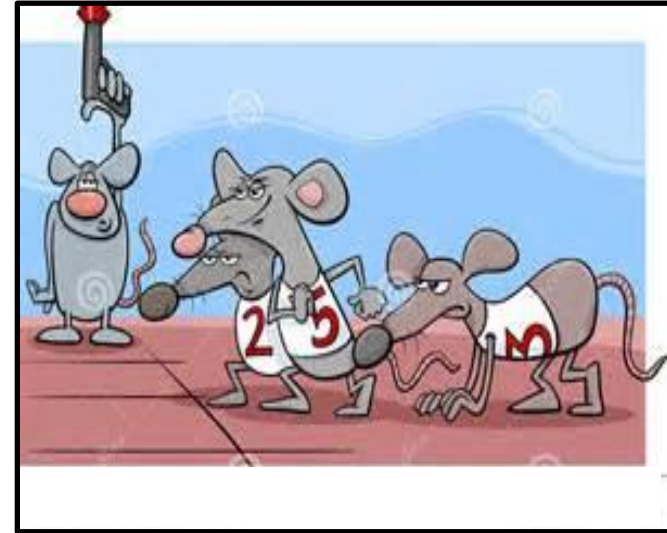
If logic fails you, use the old "Rule of Thumb."
Lead the card closest to your thumb! 😊

Lead 4th from your longest and strongest!

Leading 4th best from an honor:

♠A106 ♥754 ♦K2 ♣Q7642

♠K1062 ♥75 ♦K62 ♣K1062



I wonder why they are more likely to have minor suits than majors?

The Race Is On

Leading Top of a Sequence:

♠ **Q**J107 ♥ 53 ♦ A76 ♣ 7532

Leading Top of a Broken Sequence:

♠ A6 ♥ 72 ♦ **Q**J983 ♣ 8764

Leading From an Interior Sequence:

♠ 62 ♥ A542 ♦ Q2 ♣ KJ**10**62

♠ A2 ♥ **Q**10954 ♦ 72 ♣ 8764

This also applies in the middle of a hand and against a suit.



But when you are led into,
play the bottom of touching
honors:

Dummy

♥ **752**

You

♥ **KQJ4**

Lead: 3♥

The Finesse

The finesse is a way to make more tricks, in a suit or a NT contract.

South to lead

GOOD
For you



North

♠ Q73

South

♠ A64



South to lead

GOOD
For you



North

♠ AQ2

South

♠ 753



In other words,
screwing up the
defenders'
transportation.

The Hold-Up Play



Contract: 3NT

Opening Lead: K♠

North

♠ ~~32~~

♥ A1094

♦ QJ3

♣ AJ87

South

♠ ~~A97~~

♥ ~~KJ3~~

♦ A1094

♣ KQ6

Hold up with your A♠ until the 3rd round, in case LHO started with 5 of them. Then RHO will be out.

You have 8 top tricks, so, which finesse do you take?

The ♦ finesse loses to West, so running your J♥ through West is correct. If it loses, East will be in.

PLAYTIME

