

Entries

Just WHAT is an Entry?

An Entry:

An entry is defined as “a card that allows a particular hand to win a trick”

Why do we need “Entries”

Sometimes you need to be in one particular hand in order to do something...

For example – taking a FINESSE

Most finesses require you to start from one particular hand.

Let's look at this finesse:

**Dummy:**  
♦ AQ

**Declarer:**  
♦ 32

Here we  
need to be  
WHERE?

**Dummy:**  
♦ AQ

**Declarer:**  
♦ 32

We need to be  
in DECLARER's  
hand to try the  
finesse

**Dummy:**  
♦ AQ

**Declarer:**  
♦ 32

If you were instead in  
Dummy you could  
not play this suit  
without giving the  
Opponents their King



**Dummy:**  
♦ AQ

**Declarer:**  
♦ 32

So you are in Dummy  
and need to get to  
your hand...

You'd better have an  
**ENTRY!**

**Dummy:**

♦ AQ

♣ 2

**Declarer:**

♦ 32

♣ A

Here you go!

You have the Ace of ♣

You can now get to your hand. The Ace of ♣ is your ENTRY.

Let's see this in action!

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

After opening the bidding 1NT you find yourself in a small slam. (Partner got a little excited!)

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Should you be there?

How do you stop Partner from doing this again?

Why do I play this game?!?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

These are all  
good questions  
... for  
**ANOTHER  
TIME.**

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

None of them  
matter RIGHT  
NOW. Right  
now is all  
about MAKING  
the CONTRACT.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

So FOCUS.

Do what you do  
in any contract.

Count LOSERS in  
a suit contract.



Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Count losers  
from DUMMY  
since Dummy  
has LONGER  
trump.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

♠ 0 losers

♥ 0 losers

♦ 1 loser

♣ 1 loser

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Only two  
losers!  
That's not  
even bad!

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

The lead  
is a ♦ so  
no way to  
avoid that  
loser.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

How do  
you avoid  
the ♣  
loser?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Yes. The  
FINESSE.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Where do  
you need  
to be to  
start the ♣  
finesse?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

You must  
be in  
DUMMY  
to try the ♣  
Finesse.



Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

That  
means you  
need ONE  
entry to  
Dummy.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

You NEED  
this finesse  
to win in  
order to  
make the  
contract.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

So assume it  
will win.

Yay!

Now what is  
the problem?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

If you try the  
finesse and  
it wins you  
will win the  
trick in your  
hand.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

But where  
do you need  
to be to try  
the finesse  
AGAIN?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Yep. Back  
in Dummy.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

That  
means you  
need  
another  
entry to  
Dummy.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

If you try  
the  
finesse  
again and  
it wins...



Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

You will be  
back in  
your hand.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

If you are unlucky and ♣ do not split well, you may need to take the finesse yet again.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

That  
means you  
need  
**ANOTHER**  
entry to  
Dummy.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Altogether  
you may  
need **THREE**  
entries to  
Dummy just  
to take that ♣  
finesse.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Do you have  
them?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Just WHERE  
are your  
entries?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

You have lots of entries in the trump suit.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Plus you have  
the ♥ suit.

How many  
entries in ♥?



Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

You have TWO entries. You can win a trick with the A♥ and the J♥

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Just watch out to take your Jack entry first. If you play the 3♥ to the Ace you now have one entry only.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

So plenty of entries.

After winning the ♦ the Opponents play trump.

So just what is the plan?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Should you take  
out trump?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Yes, take out  
trump (there is  
no need to trump  
anything in  
Dummy) BUT

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Where will you need to end up after taking out trump?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

We want to take out trump but only have two entries outside the trump suit.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

We may need  
THREE entries to  
finesse the ♣.



Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

So our third entry  
is the trump suit!

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

That means we  
need to take out  
trump ending in...

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

DUMMY!

That is one of our  
three entries.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ KQT94

♥ AJ5

♦ 6

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ AJ32

♥ KQ3

♦ 83

♣ AQJT

Start by winning the Ace and then play low to the King and the Queen if needed. (Here the trump split 3-1 so you do need!)

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ AJ5

♦

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ3

♦ 8

♣ AQJT

Voila!

The Opponents  
trump is OUT.

What is the plan  
now?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ AJ5

♦

♣ 6542

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ3

♦ 8

♣ AQJT

Yes. ♣ Finesse.

Play a low ♣.

This decides it!

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ AJ5

♦

♣ 654

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ3

♦ 8

♣ AQJ

The finesse wins!

Now what?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ AJ5

♦

♣ 654

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ3

♦ 8

♣ AQJ

You've GOT to get back to Dummy to try that finesse again.

What ♥ do you play?



Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ AJ5

♦

♣ 654

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ3

♦ 8

♣ AQJ

Play a low ♥ to the Jack.

OR you could play the King (or Queen) and overtake the Ace.

But that's a little much...

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ A5

♦

♣ 654

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ

♦ 8

♣ AQJ

Here you are!

Now what?

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ A5

♦

♣ 654

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ

♦ 8

♣ AQJ

Another finesse!

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ A5

♦

♣ 65

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ

♦ 8

♣ AQ

The finesse won  
(again) BUT LHO  
did NOT play a ♣

That means RHO  
still has two left.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ A5

♦

♣ 65

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ

♦ 8

♣ AQ

So you've GOT to  
get BACK to  
Dummy to try  
that finesse  
AGAIN!

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ A5

♦

♣ 65

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ KQ

♦ 8

♣ AQ

The ♥ will do it.

Contract: 6♠

Lead: Q♦

Dummy:

♠ T9

♥ 5

♦

♣ 65

Declarer:

♠ J

♥ K

♦ 8

♣ AQ

Here you are. Do the finesse and all the work is over.

You can claim!

Watch out for ENTRIES when you need to do things like FINESSING.

Use your ENTRIES wisely. You might not have many!



Good Luck tonight!

**HAVE FUN!!!**



