

Declarer Notrump Play

QUIZ ANSWERS

In each of these deals, you are West as declarer, East dummy and North makes the opening lead. Unless indicated, there has been no opposition bidding.

1.	WEST	EAST	BIDDING	
	♠ AK8	♠ 643	WEST	EAST
	♥ 742	♥ 963	1NT	Pass
	♦ KQ74	♦ J102		
	♣ 863	♣ AK72		

What is your plan? North leads ♠Q.

West has two spade and two club tricks. Play on diamonds to win three more tricks for your contract.

2.	WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST
	♠ AQ82	♠ K64	1NT	2NT (invitational)
	♥ KJ6	♥ 74	3NT	Pass
	♦ QJ6	♦ A10742		
	♣ J104	♣ A32		

North leads ♥10 to South's ace. South continues ♥8.

After the opening lead, West can count two spade, one heart and one club trick for sure.

The best chance for the other four comes from diamonds by taking the finesse. West must be careful for if South started with three hearts and ♦K, he will be defeated. Therefore, play ♥J on the 8. Even though this may lose to the ♥Q, the defence cannot score more heart tricks before West makes 9 tricks. Try it.

3.	WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST
	♠ AK4	♠ J82	1NT	3NT
	♥ A63	♥ K92	Pass	
	♦ 82	♦ KQ763		
	♣ J7532	♣ A6		

North leads ♥Q. Which suit will provide you with most of the necessary tricks? When you win a heart trick, in which hand do you win and why?

With only 4 tricks in the major suits and the ♣A, diamonds offer some hope of 4 tricks, but only if you lead towards the KQ rather than playing one of these cards.

You need North to have the ♦A. Duck the ♥Q (hold-up play) but win the ♥J with the ♥A to lead a diamond towards the king. North plays low. Return to West with a spade to lead a second diamond. With any luck, West will have 4 diamond tricks.

4.	WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST
	♠ A76	♠ J2	1♣	1♦
	♥ AJ	♥ K87	2NT	3NT
	♦ KQ7	♦ J10943	Pass	
	♣ A9842	♣ K65		

North leads ♠K. Which card do you play from your hand at trick 1...and why?

You have 5 tricks outside diamonds. Duck the first 2 spade tricks to stop the defenders communicating in that suit. You cannot get the required tricks from the club suit, instead you must tackle diamonds. Force out the ♦A to establish 4 diamond tricks. You have to hope this card is not in the hand with long spades.

5.	WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST
	♠ 964	♠ A53	Pass	1♦
	♥ K1062	♥ 8	1♥	1♠
	♦ Q5	♦ AKJ87	1NT	2NT
	♣ KJ102	♣ A74	3NT	Pass

North leads ♠ K. Did you win the first trick?

Your plan should be to duck the spades until the 3rd round. Run the five diamond tricks to see if you can guess whether to play a heart towards the king (only OK if South has the ace) or guess the position of the ♣Q.

6.	WEST	EAST	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	♠ AQ4	♠ 62	1♦	Pass	1♥	1♠
	♥ A7	♥ J10632	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
	♦ A10742	♦ KJ3				
	♣ A106	♣ KJ4				

North leads the ♠3. South plays ♠ K.

With 7 certain tricks including 2 in spades, you only need 2 extra diamond tricks for your contract. As South has bid, they are likely to have most of the missing HCP.

Therefore play to the ♦K and then run the ♦J finessing South for the ♦Q. The diamond finesse is not dangerous as you still have a spade hold. Don't play on clubs.

7.	WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST
	♠ KQ3	♠ A9	1♦	3♦ ⁽¹⁾
	♥ A8	♥ K6	3NT	Pass
	♦ A10872	♦ KJ63	⁽¹⁾ 10-12, 4+♦, no major suit.	
	♣ QJ4	♣ 109852		

North leads ♥Q. Which suit do you play at trick 2?

You have five tricks in the major suits and two in diamonds.
 Your extra two tricks need to come from diamonds and **not** clubs, as you can afford to lose the lead only once before the opponents cash their heart tricks.
 With nine diamonds missing the queen, play AK rather than trying a finesse.

8.	WEST	EAST	WEST	EAST
	♠ KQJ75	♠ 62	1♠	2♣
	♥ AK8	♥ 432	2♠	3♦
	♦ J62	♦ AKQ5	3NT	Pass
	♣ 92	♣ KJ84		

North leads ♥Q. Do you win trick 1? When you win a heart trick, which card do you lead to the next trick?

No. Duck the first trick, win the next heart then lead ♦2 and cross to dummy with the ♦A, to lead towards the spade honours.
 If the ♠A doesn't appear you will have to repeat this process (after playing the ♦J and then over to the ♦K, ♦Q).