

**Problems to solve:**

1 - You are West and hold the following cards: ♠ Q J 10 5 ♥ 10 7 5 2 ♦ 5 ♣ A J 6 3

North South

1 ♥  
 2 ♦      2 ♥  
 4 ♥      all pass -      What card should you lead against 4 ♥?

2 - You are West and hold: ♠ 8 7 5 3 2 ♥ A 4 ♦ 9 6 4 2 ♣ A 6

North South

1NT      2 ♥\*  
 2 ♠      3 ♥  
 4 ♥      all pass      What card should you lead against 4 ♥?

3 -      ♠ K J 7 3  
          ♥ 8 6 4  
          ♦ A Q 8 5 2  
          ♣ 7

♠ A 8 5 4 2  
 ♥ 7 3  
 ♦ K 6  
 ♣ Q 9 6 4

North South

1 ♥  
 2 ♦      2NT  
 3 ♥      4 ♥  
 all pass      West leads the ♠ 10 and dummy plays low. What card should East play?

4 – Same contract, bidding and lead as in (3)

♠ K J 7 3  
 ♥ 8 6 4  
 ♦ A Q 8 5 2  
 ♣ 7

4 (continued)      ♠ A 8 5 (you)

♥ A 3

♦ K 10 9 6 4 3

♣ 8 5

Should East win the first trick? What line of defence should he adopt? Assuming the bidding to be correct, is declarer likely to make his contract?

5 -      ♠ A K Q J

♥ 7 6 4

♦ J 8 2

♣ A Q J

♠ 8 6 3

♥ 10 5 2

♦ A K Q 5

♣ K 7 4

**North**

**South**

1 ♣

1 ♥

2NT

4 ♥

all pass

West leads 3 top diamonds, to which all follow. What should he play at trick 4?

6 -      ♠ 7 3

♥ J 5

♦ K Q J 10 7 4 2

♣ 8 6

♠ A 5

♥ A Q 8 7 4 2

♦ 9 6 5 3

♣ Q

**North**

**South**

3 ♦

4 ♠

West leads the ♥ A on which declarer drops the king. What should West play at trick 2?

7 -      ♠ 8 6 5

♥ J 9 6 2

♦ 5

♣ A Q J 8 4

♠ Q 7

**North**    **South**

♥ 8 4

1 ♠

♦ J 9 7 4 3 2

2 ♠      4 ♠

♣ 9 6 3

all pass

7 (continued) West leads the ♥ K followed by the queen and then the 3. Declarer plays the 9 from dummy on the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. What card should East play?

## ANSWERS

1 The ♠ Q. With four trumps it is rarely wise to play for a ruff. Besides, the diamond lead may help set up dummy's suit. The spade is both safe and constructive.

2 A small spade. The bidding shows that South has a two suiter, with 5 spades, maybe 6. North, who opened 1NT, must have at least a doubleton spade. It follows that East must have one spade or none. Having two entries, including the ace of trumps, West may be able to give his partner two spade ruffs.

3 The ace. Declarer may well have ♠ Q x x in spades in view of his bid of 2NT. Partner will then have a singleton and can ruff a spade return.

4 The ace. This time partner can not possibly have a singleton, as that would leave 5 spades for South. But East needs an immediate entry, because he wants to give West a diamond ruff. South's 2NT rebid promises a balanced hand, and that means no singleton. Therefore South has 2 diamonds and West none. When he comes in with the ace of trumps, East will give his partner a second diamond ruff and the contract will be beaten.

5 The thirteenth diamond. It is clear that declarer can have no losing spades, and since the ♣ K is under ♣ A Q J, he has no losing clubs either. The only hope is the "uppercut" \*. If East can ruff the last diamond with an honour, West's ten will win a trick eventually.

6 The ♣ Q. Unless South was dealt 10 tricks in his own hand, he is almost bound to have ♦ A 8. Without a fit, he would not have bid ♠ 4, since North has promised nothing beyond a string of diamonds. If South has 2 diamonds East must have a void. That suggests a switch to a diamond at the second trick, but the temptation must be resisted, because East is unlikely to have 3 trumps, and one diamond ruff will not beat the contract. West switches to a club, and when he comes in with the ♠ A, returns a diamond. East ruffs and plays back a club for West to ruff. If, by some chance, East has 3 trumps after all, declarer will go two down.

7 The ♠ Q. West is obviously setting the stage for an "uppercut" \*. If he has so much as the ♠ K 10, this defence ensures 2 trump tricks and beats the contract. Declarer is marked with 6 spades, but they may be ♠ A J 9 4 3 2.

\*The "uppercut" referred to is when defenders contrive to use their trump honours separately. One of them goes up with an honour, forces declarer to overruff thereby promoting an honour in partner's hand.