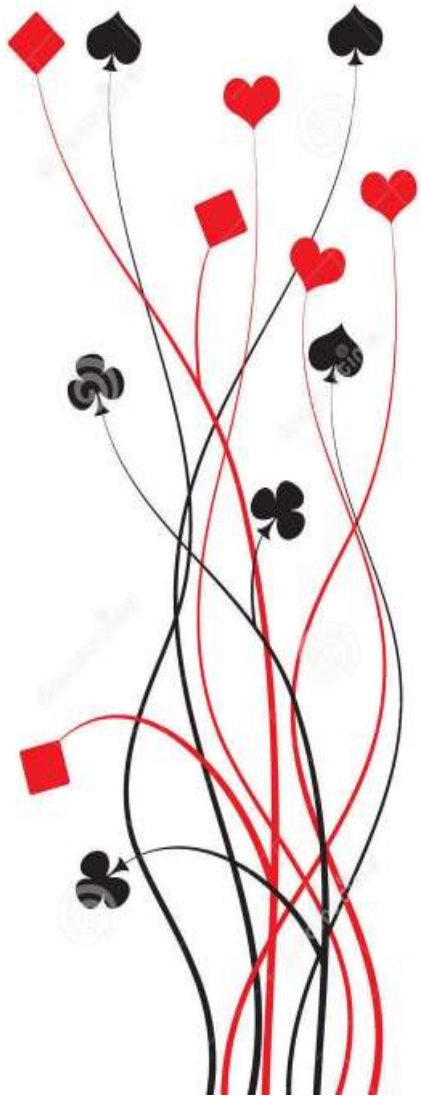
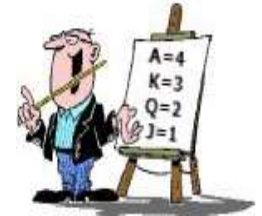




Bridge First Steps Primer

Lesson 3: Your lead partner

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The opening lead is one of the most difficult decisions you will have to make.

1. On a good day you won't help declarer
2. On a very good day you might even help the defence!

Defence is much harder than declaring; declarer can see all of their sides cards when trying to plan the play. The opening lead is our chance to get the defence off to a good start; it often makes the difference between getting a good score and getting a bad one.

The good news is that there are some simple, useful rules that can help you; we will look at them today.

The Opening Lead against No Trumps



The opening lead serves two purposes:

1. To try and win, or at least set up, tricks for the defence
2. To pass some information to partner about what is in our hand
(note that this isn't a secret, declarer gets to know too!)

If you lead a card from a good suit this is called an 'active' lead, you are trying to set up tricks for the defence.

If you lead a card from a poor suit this is called a 'passive' lead, you are hoping not to gift a trick to declarer.

In MiniBridge it is rarely correct to lead from a short suit (less than 3 cards).

Leading from your longest suit is generally the best thing to do as given your holding, the opposition are bound to have less of them

No Trumps - Which card do I lead?

	You Hold	Standard lead	Examples	Comments
Best	Honour Sequence	Top	<u>Q</u> JT53 <u>A</u> KQ7	By far the safest lead
	Near Honour sequence	Top	<u>K</u> QT4 <u>A</u> KJ2	
	Interior Sequence	Top of sequence	K <u>J</u> T3 A <u>Q</u> J72	Leading the lowest card could risk gifting a trick to the 9.
	Good suit headed by an honour card	Lowest card	KQ8 <u>3</u> <u>2</u> A <u>J</u> 5 <u>4</u>	(Many people lead 4 th highest, we recommend you lead the lowest)
	Poor suit	Second highest	9 <u>7</u> 532 7 <u>3</u> 2	Avoid the second example if you can; partner might mistake this for a lead from a good suit
	Poor suit headed by an honour card	Lowest	Q7 <u>3</u> <u>2</u>	
Worst	Doubleton	Top	<u>7</u> 3	Avoid leading a doubleton against NT contracts.

Why does it matter?



If we lead from a good suit we want partner to lead the suit again when they win a trick.

Partner will know that we have a good suit if we lead a high card (top of sequence) or a low card.

If we lead from a poor suit we don't want partner to lead the suit again.

Partner will know we have a poor suit if we lead a middling card.

Let's play some hands

