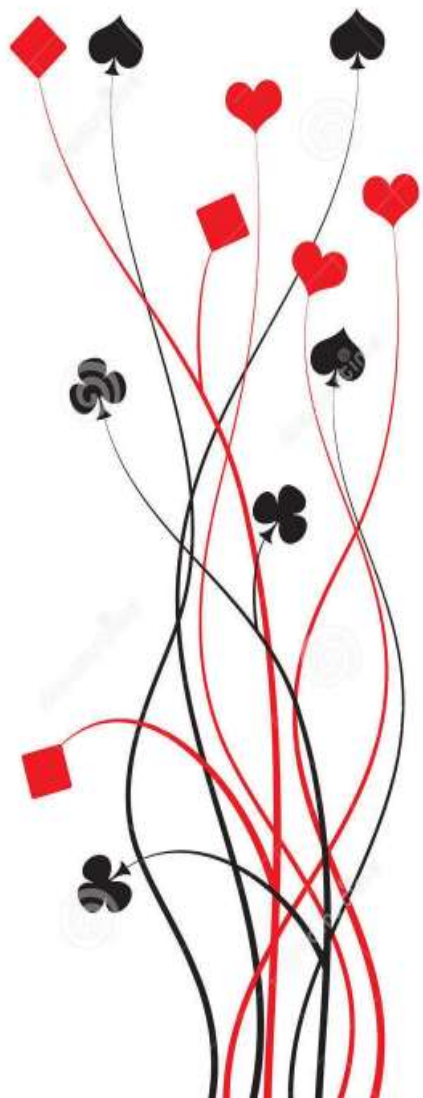




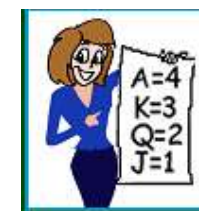
Bridge First Steps

Lesson 6

Your lead partner (Suit Contracts)



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Defence: Leading to a suit contract

Differences between No Trump and Suit Leads

- Against a NT contract we might aim to set up **quick winners** by leading top of a sequence or **slow winners** by leading low from a long suit.
- There is no point trying to set up slow winners in a trump contract; by the time we have established the suit declarer will be ruffing them!

Good Leads for Suit Contracts

- Top of sequence leads are particularly attractive against a suit contract because they don't give declarer easy tricks and quickly establish suits for the defence.
- Unlike NT contracts leading a short suit can be effective.
We can lead a short suit in the hope that we can get a ruff later; however we must be realistic about our chances, we will look at this in more detail on the next slide.
- Don't rule out leading a trump!
We will look at that in more detail later.

Leading from a short suit against a suit contract

You should only do this if there is a realistic chance of getting a ruff later. Consider the following examples; in both case you are on lead against a game contract in spades.

♠	432
♥	AQJ32
♦	2
♣	KQJ4

Because you have a lot of points your partner will have a very weak hand, at most one or two points. They have no chance of winning the lead in time to give you a ruff.

Lead the ♣K.

This will establish two club winners in your hand.

♠	432
♥	J7652
♦	2
♣	Q743

You are very weak so there is a good chance your partner will have either the ♦A or ♠A (or both if you are lucky!)

Lead the ♦2.

If your partner has both aces then you can get two ruffs!

Leading a trump against a suit contract

To remove trumps from dummy to stop declarer making extra tricks by ruffing in the short trump hand.

Spades are trumps.
South is declarer.
So West is on lead.

	♠ J96	
	♥ 4	
	♦ AQ32	
	♣ KQ965	
♠ 742	N.	
♥ AJ94	W	E.
♦ J75		
♣ J42	S.	

Declarer might be hoping to ruff hearts in dummy. By leading a trump to start with, and then leading another when you win the ♥A you can foil their cunning plan.

Because you don't like your other options!

	♠ AQ96	
	♥ T73	
	♦ QJ93	
	♣ 96	
♠ 742	N.	
♥ KJ96	W	E.
♦ K82		
♣ K74	S.	

If we lead any other suit then we risk giving declarer a present. Lead a trump.
Declarer may need to take finesses in one or two suits; we will be lurking if they do!

Suit Contracts - Which card do I lead?

There are tables of standard leads, below are the most important rules for leading against a suit

	You Hold	Standard lead	Examples	Comments
Best	Honour Sequence	Top	<u>Q</u> JT3	As good against a suit contract as against NT.
	Near Honour Sequence	Top	<u>K</u> QT4	
	Two touching honours	Top	<u>K</u> Q52	Make sure of setting up a trick.
	Singleton Doubleton	No choice! Top	<u>X</u> <u>9</u> 3	Short-suit leads can work well, but be realistic about your chances of a ruff.
	Poor suit	Second highest	9 <u>7</u> 32 7 <u>3</u> 2	Avoid the second example if you can; partner might mistake this for a lead from a good suit
	One honour	Lowest (unless Ace)	K7 <u>3</u> <u>A</u> 73	Can be risky, avoid unless you think partner has good cards in this suit.
Worst	Interior Sequence	Top of sequence	K <u>J</u> T3	Too likely to give a trick away.

If no other lead looks attractive consider leading a trump. Trump leads can also be effective if there is a short suit in dummy which declarer might be hoping to ruff.