

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0047:
"Leading Against Opponents' 3NT Contract
When You and Partner Are Both PASSEd Hands and
You Hold <6 HCPs and No Promising Long Suit"¹**

Bruce Thompson

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As Agnes W. Lee noted in her excellent recent article, "Short Suit Leads Against No Trump,"

No Trump is a **race** to see which side can set up and cash extra winners in their long [S]uits before the other side reaches the finish line. [emphasis added]

*The Opponent "on lead" against a **NT** contract typically adheres the following admonitions, emphasized in the rank order presented here:*

- 1. Lead a Suit that Partner has bid.²*
- 2. Do not (usually) lead a Suit that Opponents have bid.*

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¹ The *ideas* presented herein were articulated in Louis H. Watson's extraordinary Watson's Play at Bridge, and David Bird and Taf Antias' Winning Notrump Leads. The illustrative Hands here are variations on Hands in Agnes W. Lee's excellent article, "Short Suit Leads Against No Trump," in the Winter/Spring issue of The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal.

² Louis Watson suggested that when Partner's bid is your "short" Suit, if you hold **3 cards** headed by an Honor higher than the Ten, lead "low"; otherwise lead "high." If you hold a **doubleton** in Partner's bid Suit, lead the top of the doubleton. If you hold a **singleton**, assuming (1) the singleton Suit was not bid by Opponents, and (2) is not an Ace, lead the singleton, hoping to find Partner's "length".

3. Lead an Honor from a "touching Honor" sequence.
4. Lead 4th from the top of your "longest and strongest" Suit.
5. Prefer leading a Major Suit rather than a Minor Suit, because typically if Opponents had a Major fit, they would have found and bid that Major fit.

But what if (1) neither player in your Partnership bid, and further (2) you hold fewer than 6 HCPs, and thus are unlikely to **ever** take "winning" Tricks during play?

1. Sitting SOUTH, what should you lead?

| | | | |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| EAST | SOUTH | WEST | NORTH |
| 1NT | PASS | 3NT | PASS |
| PASS | | | |

YOU (1)

SOUTH

S: 7 6 3

H: 9 8 3

D: J 7 5

C: T 8 6 5

To see Esther's **suggested answer**, CLICK:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0047_a1.pdf