

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0110:
"As Declarer, Delay Play from Your Tenace or
Near-Tenace as Long as Possible"**

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Ron Klinger (1941-) is an Australian contract bridge player who has written more than **70** bridge books including his 1990 book, Guide to Better Card Play, which won the "American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Bridge Book of the Year Award." His book, Right Through the Pack Again, won the 2010 "International Bridge Press Association Book of the Year Award." He was Editor of Australian Bridge for 13 years (1972-1985). For many years he has written, and still currently writes, a weekly bridge column for both the Sydney Morning Herald and The Sun-Herald.

Klinger is also the inventor of the Ron Klinger "**Suit Quality Test ('SQT') Score**". The "**SQT Score**" is computed by adding together (1) the number of cards you hold in a Suit plus (2) the number of Honors (including the Ten) that you hold in the Suit. *Suit contracts* set no higher than "**SQT Score**" - 6 are generally pretty "safe".

The present discussion is drawn from **Tip #57** (pp. 66-67) from Ron Klinger's 2003 book, 100 WINNING BRIDGE TIPS for the Improving Player. The examples have been somewhat modified by Esther.

Definitions Tenace and Near-Tenace

A "tenace" is a holding within a given Hand, or within the combination of the Dummy and Declarer's Hand, in which a sequence of "touching" Honors is broken by missing **one** Honor. For example, here Declarer SOUTH holds a *tenace*:

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¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

SOUTH
Declarer
K J 6 4 2

In the next example Declarer and Dummy *together* hold a *tenace*:

NORTH
Dummy
A J 7 5 3

SOUTH
Declarer
K 8 6 4 2

A "near-tenace" is a holding within a given Hand, or within the combination of the Dummy and Declarer's Hand, in which a sequence of "touching" Honors is broken by missing **two** Honors. For example, here Declarer SOUTH holds a *near-tenace*:

SOUTH
Declarer
A J 6 4 2

1. *What is your best Line of Play with the following holdings?*
WHY?

NORTH
Dummy
A J 7 5 3

SOUTH
Declarer
K 8 6 4 2

2. *What is your best Line of Play with the following holdings?*
WHY?

NORTH
Dummy
A 9 7 5 3

SOUTH
Declarer
K J 6 4 2

3. What is your best Line of Play with the following holdings?
WHY?

NORTH
Dummy
A J 9 3

SOUTH
Declarer
K 7 6 4 2

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0110_a1.pdf