

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0123:  
"Some 'Bidding' and 'Play on Defense' Lessons  
From a 'Real Day' at the Bridge Table"**

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>**

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz.html>

Board #1: 01/27/25 499er

Dealer: **NORTH**

Vulnerability: **NONE**

NORTH (10)

**S:** A Q T 9 4

**H:** Q

**D:** J 6 4

**C:** J T 9 8

WEST (14)

**S:** J 8 6 2

**H:** T 9 2

**D:** A K 2

**C:** A Q 7

EAST (7)

**S:** 7 3

**H:** A J 8

**D:** Q T 9 8 7 5

**C:** 6 4

SOUTH (9)

**S:** K 5

**H:** K 7 6 5 4 3

**D:** 3

**C:** K 5 3 2

**Bidding**

NORTH

1S

PASS

EAST

PASS

2D

SOUTH

PASS

???

WEST

DBL

NORTH opens by bidding 1S even though he holds only 10 HCPs. North does so for various reasons:

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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.

1. NORTH's Hand almost meets the requirements to open specified in Marty Bergen's very important "**Rule of 20**",<sup>2</sup> because (a) **10** HCPs plus (b)  $5 + 4 = 9$  cards in his "longest" 2 Suites equals  $10 + 9 = 19$ .
2. NORTH's Spade Ron Klinger "**Suit Quality Test ('SQT') Score**" equals (a) **5** Spade cards plus (b) **3** Spade Honors (including the Ten) =  $5 + 3 = 8$ . An "**SQT Score**" of 8 will generally support a Suit bid up to the  $8 - 6 = 2$  level.

1. What should SOUTH bid at his **2<sup>nd</sup>** turn within the auction?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0123 a1.pdf>

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<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons", see: "Esther Bridge Lesson #43: 'Are the 'Rule of 20' and the 'Law of Total Tricks' Both Broken?'" : [https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/count\(s\).pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/count(s).pdf)