

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0142:  
"As Declarer Playing a NT Contract (1) Beware  
the 'Rule of 7' and (2) Attend Closely to  
Your 'Touching' Honors  
Across Both Your Hand and Dummy"**

**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>

Esther on her "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" website has previously recommended the "**BBO Bridge Master**" website:

<https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/anon/bridgemaster>

The "**BBO Bridge Master**" website allows you to declare your skill level, then shows a series of Hands and announces the final contract, each of which you then play as Declarer. At the end of play you can then request a solution in which the optimal "Line of Play" is discussed step by step. The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" question is drawn from "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-1 **Lesson A-9**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

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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.

**Board A-9, Level 1**

NORTH (15)

**S:** J 3

**H:** A 3 2

**D:** K Q J T

**C:** 5 4 3 2

SOUTH (14)

**S:** A T 2

**H:** K 5 4

**D:** 9 8 7

**C:** A K 7 6

**Bidding**

<i>SOUTH</i>	<i>WEST</i>	<i>NORTH</i>	<i>EAST</i>
<b>1C</b>	PASS	<b>1D</b>	PASS
<b>1NT</b>	PASS	<b>3NT</b>	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On lead *WEST* plays his Spade 9.

1. How do you interpret *WEST*'s lead of the Spade 9?
2. What are your initial impressions as Declarer once the *NORTH* Dummy comes "down"?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0142\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0142_a1.pdf)