

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0171:
**"Several Basic and Important Principles for
Playing Suit Contracts as Declarer"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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-2 **Lessons A-07, A-04, and A-06**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2025. All rights reserved.

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.

**The Importance of Running a Finesse
When You *Must* in Order to "Make" Your Contract**

Dealer: **NORTH**

Board A-07, Level 2

NORTH (14)

S: A K J 3
H: 6 5 2
D: T
C: K Q J T 8

WEST (16)

S: Q 6 4
H: K Q J T 9
D: A 3 2
C: A 2

EAST (0)

S: T 9 8 7 5
H: 8 7
D: 6 5
C: 9 7 6 5

SOUTH (10)

S: 2
H: A 4 3
D: K Q J 9 8 7 4
C: 4 3

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1H	2C	PASS	2D
PASS	2S	PASS	5D
PASS	PASS	PASS	

WEST leads the Heart King as the "top" of a "touching" card sequence in his "longest" Suit thus promising the Heart Queen and possibly the Heart Jack.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" what certain "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What "Line of Play" **must** Declarer SOUTH immediately follow in order to possibly "make" his contract?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0171_a1.pdf