

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0180:
'Signaling' Information Other than 'Attitude'
When Playing on Defense
Against a Bridge Suit Contract"**

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:

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As noted in the "Bridge Bruce's Way ('BBW') Website Lesson #6: **Leading & Signaling on Defense Against Non-Slam Contracts**":

https://esther-bridge.com/bbw/lesson_06.pdf

"Most players agree that *defensive play is the most difficult phase of bridge* [emphasis added]. Bidding can become pretty well standardized between any pair of players, and even two players who have no common bidding system can generally coordinate their ideas of bidding to such an extent that they will have some notion of what each is doing. The play of the Declarer is comparatively simple, for he always manipulates half the cards in the deck..., all of which he can see. The player on the Defending Side has no such advantage. He can see his own thirteen cards, and he can see the Dummy's thirteen cards. But the only cards he can play as he chooses are his own thirteen, and he cannot see his Partner's hand at all." (Louis H. Watson, 1958, Watson's Classic Book on the Play of the Hand at Bridge, p. 159)

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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, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

The Boards presented here are from examples presented by Jeff Tang in the article, "Suit-Preference Signals", on his excellent "BridgeBum" website:

https://www.bridgebum.com/suit_preference_signals.php

Esther may have modified some of the cards in some of the Boards.

Dealer: **WEST**

NORTH (10)

S: A T 8 5 2

H: T 4

D: K J T

C: Q 8 3

WEST (11)

S: 3

H: A K J 9 6 2

D: 9 5 2

C: K T 9

EAST (7)

S: 6 4

H: 8 5 3

D: A Q 4

C: J 7 6 5 2

SOUTH (12)

S: K Q J 9 7

H: Q 7

D: 8 7 6 3

C: A 4

Bidding

WEST

1**H**

3**H**

PASS

NORTH

PASS

4**S**

EAST

2**H**

PASS

SOUTH

2**S**

PASS

WEST leads the Heart Ace.

1. Sitting EAST what should you play on Trick #1?
2. Sitting EAST what should you play on Trick #2?

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

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0180 a1.pdf>