

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0226:

"When Playing a Suit Contract as Declarer Is It Better to Play for the More Likely 'Split' or to Be Safe and Protect Against the Unlikely 'Split'? : The Bridge 'Distribution Safety Play'"

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-3 **Lesson C-10**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

You may *also* be interested "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz #227": "**When Playing a 3NT Contract as Declarer Playing Safely When There May Be an *Unlikely But Deadly* Suit 'Split': The 'Distribution Safety Play'**":

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0227_q.pdf

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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.

BBO Bridge Master Level 3 Lesson C-10

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (8)

S: 3 2
H: 6 5 4
D: A K J T 9
C: 8 4 3

WEST (9)

S: K J T 9
H: 8
D: 8 7 6 5 3
C: K Q 6

EAST (7)

S: A Q 8 7 6 4
H: J T 9 7
D: 4
C: 7 5

SOUTH (16)

S: 5
H: A K Q 3 2
D: Q 2
C: A J T 9 2

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 D	PASS	3 D	PASS
3 H	PASS	3 NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*In part SOUTH has invoked the "**Rule of 5**" to help decide whether to bid "game". SOUTH counts "missing" A,K,Q's in his Hand across all 4 Suits up to the limit of the number of cards held in each Suit. Here 1 Spade, 0 Hearts, 2 Diamonds, and 2 Clubs equals $1 + 0 + 2 + 2 = 5$, which is 5 or less, so a "game" contract is probably "makeable". SOUTH also notes that he holds both a singleton and a doubleton in "side" Suits.

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade Jack from the "top" of a "touching" card sequence within his Spade tenace. WEST overtakes with his Spade Ace. On Trick #2 EAST "returns Partner's lead" by leading his Spade 7, the 4th from the "top" of his Spades so that WEST can invoke the "**Rule of 11**". Declarer SOUTH ruffs from his "closed" (hidden) Hand.

1. What N/S "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see once the NORTH Dummy is exposed?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0226_a1.pdf