

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0229:
"When Playing a 3NT Contract as Declarer and
An Opponent Bid During the Auction, Sometimes
It's Best to 'Duck' At Least Once When the
Opponent's Bid Suit Is Initially Led"**

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-30**. 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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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-30

Dealer: **EAST**

NORTH (9)

S: K
H: Q 6 4
D: Q J T 9 8 7
C: J 4 3

WEST (3)

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

EAST (11)

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

SOUTH (17)

S: A Q
H: K 3 2
D: A 5 4 2
C: A 6 5 2

Bidding

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

On Trick #1 WEST leads his "highest" Heart, the Heart 9, in response to Partner EAST having opened with a 1**H** bid.

1. What "winning" Tricks can Declarer SOUTH see once the NORTH Dummy is exposed?
2. How many cards did WEST initially hold in EAST's bid Heart Suit?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0229 a1.pdf>