

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0234:
"When Playing as Declarer 'Placing' 'Missing'
Honors Where Those Honors Must Lie
or Else Your 3NT Contract Will Fail"**

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 says...

When you are playing as Declarer and "missing" Honors must lie a certain way *or else* your contract will fail, you must play assuming that "missing" Honors lie *exactly* as you need them to.

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-29**. 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-29

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (7)

S: A 3
H: Q J T 9 8 6
D: 4 3 2
C: 7 5

WEST (3)

S: K 9 8 7 6 5
H: 7 5 4
D: 7 5
C: T 8

EAST (13)

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

SOUTH (17)

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

Bidding

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

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade 7, obviously 4th from the "top" of his "strongest and longest" Suit, thus enabling both Partner EAST and Declarer SOUTH once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" to invoke the "Rule of 11".

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Declarer SOUTH sees that N/S together hold $2 + 6 = 8$ Clubs. Thus, E/W together hold $13 - 8 = 5$ Clubs. What is the most likely E/W Club "split"?
3. What card from the NORTH Dummy should Declarer SOUTH play on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0234_a1.pdf