

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0239:
"When Playing 3NT as Declarer Using the
'Rule of 11' to
(1) Determine How Many Higher Cards
Your RHO Holds and (2) Sometimes How Many
Cards Your LHO Initially Held in the Suit"**

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 D-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.

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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 D-06

Dealer: **NORTH**

NORTH (14)

S: K 4
H: A 7 6 5 4 3
D: 6 5 3
C: A K

WEST (4)

S: T 8 7 5 3
H: K J 9 8
D: 9 7
C: 4 2

EAST (12)

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

SOUTH (10)

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

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1H	PASS*	2C	PASS
2H	PASS	2NT	PASS
3NT	PASS	PASS	PASS

*This bidding is by BBO Bridge Master. Sitting EAST Esther would have Overcalled **2D**.

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade 5, 4th from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. How many Spade cards "higher" than the Spade 5 does EAST hold?
3. How many Spade cards did WEST initially hold?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0239_a1.pdf