

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0242:  
"When Playing as Declarer a 3NT Contract:  
The Critical Necessity of 'Unblocking' 'Winners'  
and Protecting Necessary Entries to  
'Promote' Needed 'Winners' "**

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>**

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-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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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-10**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (8)

**S:** A T 9  
**H:** K 2  
**D:** J T 9 8 7  
**C:** 6 5 3

WEST (8)

**S:** J 8 7 6 4  
**H:** 7 6 5 3  
**D:** A K 4  
**C:** 7

EAST (8)

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

SOUTH (16)

**S:** Q 3 2  
**H:** A J  
**D:** Q 3 2  
**C:** A Q J T 2

**Bidding**

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	PASS	2NT	PASS
3NT	PASS	PASS	PASS

WEST leads the Spade 6 as **4<sup>th</sup>** from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winning" Tricks can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. How many Hearts does EAST likely hold? How many Spades does WEST likely hold? What "top" Spades does WEST likely hold?
3. On Trick **#1** (1) what Spade card should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy and (2) what Spade card should Declarer SOUTH play from his "closed" (hidden) Hand?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0242\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0242_a1.pdf)