

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0256:
"Playing a Suit Contract as Declarer: Necessary
'Unblocking' May Require 'Dumping'
Your A,K,Q 'Side' Suit Holdings"**

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-4 **Lesson A-31**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2025. All rights reserved.

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 4 Lesson A-31

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (16)

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

WEST (12)

S: Q 4
H: K Q J T
D: A 3 2
C: 7 5 4 3

EAST (6)

S: K 9 6 3
H: 9 8 7 6
D: K 6 5 4
C: 2

SOUTH (6)

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

Bidding

| SOUTH | WEST | NORTH | EAST |
|--------------|------|------------|------|
| 2 S * | PASS | 4 S | PASS |
| PASS | PASS | | |

**Unlike this N/S Partnership, some Partnerships will make a preempt bid if and only if the Opener holds 6 cards and either (1) 2 of the "top" 3 Honors or (2) 3 of the "top" 5 Honors. Partners play this way in order to more narrowly "limit" the Hand so that Responder can make more informed judgments.*

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Heart King as the "top" of "touching" Honors. Declarer SOUTH "wins" in the NORTH Dummy with the Dummy's Heart Ace.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What "problem" should Declarer SOUTH see?
3. What card should Declarer SOUTH lead from the NORTH Dummy on Trick #2?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0256 a1.pdf>