

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0272:
"Some Bridge Wisdom About 'Signaling'
While Playing on Defense"**

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:

The ideas presented here are drawn from a posthumously published article, "Defensive Thinking", written by Marti Ronemus, who passed away in 2024. The article was published in the Fall, 2025 issue of The American Bridge Teachers' Association Journal (pp. 22-23). Marti was an extremely gifted bridge teacher. Many of her excellent bridge lessons remain available on the "Vu-Bridge" or "BridgeBee" websites for a nominal fee. Esther in the present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" has altered the locations of some the Hands and some of the cards in the 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.

Note. In these examples N/S by Partnership Agreement are "signaling" with "Upside Down Attitude" ("U.D.A.") where "Hi" = "No" and "Low" = "Yes".²

Dealer: **SOUTH**

Vul: **NONE**

NORTH (9)

S: Q T 5 2

H: T 7 4

D: K J 3

C: Q J T

WEST (7)

S: 7

H: A K 8 6

D: 7 6 5 2

C: 9 8 6 3

EAST (6)

S: 9 8 6

H: Q 9 2

D: T 4

C: A 7 5 4 2

SOUTH (18)

S: A K J 4 3

H: J 5 3

D: A Q 9 8

C: K

Bidding

| SOUTH | WEST | NORTH | EAST |
|------------|------|------------|-------------|
| 1 S | PASS | 2 S | PASS |
| 4 S | PASS | PASS | PASS |

WEST leads his Heart Ace thus "promising" the Heart King.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy has been exposed what "losers" should Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What does WEST's lead of his Heart Ace mean?
3. What Heart card should EAST play on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0272_a1.pdf

² Some Partners use the mnemonic "High" = "Hate", "Low" = "Like" or "Love".