

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0345:  
"Playing a 6NT Contract as Bridge Declarer:  
To Use or Not Use the Bridge 'Rule of 7'"**

**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. Here we use the *free* "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-1 **Lesson B-09** which gives you the opportunity to see and *repeatedly practice* playing a given bridge Board. Esther may have altered some of the cards in the 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 1 Lesson B-09**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (11)

**S:** J 2  
**H:** 5 3 2  
**D:** A K Q J  
**C:** 6 5 4 2

WEST (1)

**S:** T 6 5 4  
**H:** J 6 4  
**D:** 8 7 6 4  
**C:** 8 7

EAST (5)

**S:** Q 8 7  
**H:** T 9 8 7  
**D:** T 9  
**C:** Q J T 9

SOUTH (23)

**S:** A K 9 3  
**H:** A K Q  
**D:** 5 3 2  
**C:** A K 3

**Bidding**

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
2 <b>C</b>	PASS	3 <b>D</b>	PASS
3 <b>NT</b>	PASS	6 <b>NT</b>	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade 4 as 4<sup>th</sup> from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit so that Partner EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**".<sup>2</sup>

1. After the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Based on WEST's lead and the "**Rule of 11**" how many Spades does EAST hold that are higher than the led Spade 4?
3. What NORTH Dummy Spade should Declarer SOUTH play on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0345\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0345_a1.pdf)

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<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":  
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>