

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0374:  
"As a Bridge Player Sitting in the 'Balancing'  
Position Can You Correctly Bid Your Hand  
Throughout the Duration of the Auction?"**

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

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Today's bridge bidding questions are drawn from Mike Lawrence's excellent article, "Mike's Advice: A Balancing Problem", in the April, 2026 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (p. 68). Esther may have altered some of the cards in the examples.

**About Mike Lawrence**

Michael S. Lawrence (1940- ) is an American bridge player, teacher and prolific writer. In 1968 Mike joined the "Dallas Aces" bridge team that won the bridge "Bermuda Bowl" in 1970, 1971, and 1987. Mike has won **16** North American Bridge Championships. He has published more than **30** bridge books several of which have won bridge book-of-the-year awards.

1. You are sitting SOUTH with no one Vulnerable and you hold:

♠ A K Q T 6 4 3    ♥ Q 3    ♦ A 7    ♣ Q 3    (17)

The auction proceeds:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	PASS	PASS	???

You are in the "**balancing**" position within the auction

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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.

because if you *PASS* the contract will be finalized? What are your thoughts about each of the following bids that you could make at your **1<sup>st</sup>** turn to bid within the auction: (a) **2♠**, (b) **3♠**, (c) **4♠**, (d) **3NT**, and (e) **DOUBLE**?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0374\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0374_a1.pdf)