

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0391:
"Playing a NT Contract as Declarer When
Your Partnership Together Holds 39 HCPs!"**

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>

Your Partnership together will be dealt 37+ HCPs, thus making a 7NT contract reasonable, only 0.009% of the time. If you play in 2 bridge competitions per week with 24 Boards being played in each competition your Partnership will be dealt 37+ HCPs *on average* once every 2 years.² But if you play for multiple years this will indeed eventually happen.

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 A-08 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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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.

² See: <https://bridgewebs.com/taverham/Probabilities.pdf>

BBO Bridge Master Level 1 Lesson A-08

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (18)

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

WEST (0)

S: --
H: T 9 8 6
D: 7 6 5 4 3
C: T 9 8 7

EAST (1)

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

SOUTH (21)

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

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 NT	PASS	7 NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On Trick #1 WEST leads his Heart Ten as the "top" of a "touching" card sequence. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with the NORTH Dummy's Heart Queen.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What are the dangers to his contract that Declarer SOUTH should see?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0391_a1.pdf