

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0413:
"As a Declarer Playing a 6NT Contract
Does the Order in Which You Pursue Your
Various 'Lines of Play' Make a Difference?"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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The present bridge example and ideas are drawn from Michael Berkowitz's excellent article, "Order of Operations", published in the May, 2026 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (pp. 50, 68). ACBL members can access online archives of the Bulletin for free. Michael Berkowitz is the son of David and Lisa Berkowitz both of whom are North American Bridge Champions. David Berkowitz won **33** North American Bridge Championships. Esther may have altered some of the cards in the example.

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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.

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (14)

S: Q J 4
H: K J 5
D: Q J 6 2
C: A 7 2

WEST (3)

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

EAST (3)

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

SOUTH (20)

S: A K 8
H: A 4 2
D: A 5 4
C: K Q 5 3

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2NT	PASS	6NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On Trick #1 WEST leads his Spade Ten from among his 4 cards in a Major holding the "touching" Spade 9.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What are the various "Lines of Play" through which Declarer SOUTH can "win" his needed 12 Tricks?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0413 a1.pdf>