

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0489:
"On Defense Should You Follow the Bridge General Principle '*Lead Through Strength and Toward Weakness*', or Should You Instead *THINK*?"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

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As new bridge players soon learn there are numerous Bridge General Principles" to guide bidding and play, such as "*Eight Ever, Nine Never*", "*Cover an Honor with an Honor*", and "*2nd Hand Low*". One such Bridge General Principle says, "***On Defense Lead Through Strength and Toward Weakness***". For example, on the "The Bridge World Website" "Lesson 10: Defense After the Lead":
<https://www.bridgeworld.com/pages/learn/elementary/lesson10.html>
suggests that,

"A general principle that is often helpful recommends leading **through strength and up to weakness**." (emphasis in original)

Similarly, the "60SecondBridge" website lesson "On Defense Leading a New Trick" recommends:

"When it's your turn to lead to a new trick and you are on declarer's right hand side – look at dummy on the table try and lead suits that are weaker or without any winning cards. Lead those suits so your partner can win the trick using only his intermediate cards."

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" further explores this General Bridge Principle for Defenders.

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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.

About Richard Pavlicek

Richard Pavlicek (1945-) has won **11** North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting **3** straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982-84, and again in 1990. He won the 1973 inaugural Grand National Teams tournament and repeated a win there in 1997. He has written or co-authored several bridge books, including with co-author William S. Root their 1981 book, Modern Bridge Conventions. From 1984 until 1990 Pavlicek was the Bridge Columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. Esther particularly likes the Bridge Simulation Studies presented on his bridge website:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpsi.htm>

and his re-posts of his newspaper bridge columns:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpcr.htm>

The present “Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quiz” is based on the 6/17/90 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, “Do Your Own Thinking”.

Dealer: **NORTH**

Vul: **E/W**

NORTH (8)

S: Q J 5 3

H: 7 5

D: 9 8 6

C: K Q T 8

WEST (5)

S: T 7 4

H: Q 9 8 6 2

D: Q 7 2

C: J 2

EAST (10)

S: 8 6

H: A K T 3

D: K T 5 4

C: 6 5 4

SOUTH (17)

S: A K 9 2

H: J 4

D: A J 3

C: A 9 7 3

Bidding

<i>NORTH</i>	<i>EAST</i>	<i>SOUTH</i>	<i>WEST</i>
PASS	PASS	1NT	PASS
2C	PASS	2S	PASS
3S	PASS	4S	PASS
PASS	PASS		

WEST leads the Heart 6 as 4th from the “top” of his “longest and strongest” Suit so that so that Partner

EAST (and Declarer SOUTH) can use the "**Rule of 11**"² to determine exactly how many Hearts higher than the Heart 6 Declarer SOUTH (or EAST) holds. EAST "wins" Tricks **#1** and **#2** with his Heart A,K.

1. After Trick **#2** EAST sees that the NORTH Dummy is now void in Hearts. Should EAST follow the Bridge General Principle "**On Defense Lead Through Strength and Toward Weakness**" and lead a Diamond on Trick **#3**?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0489_a1.pdf

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