

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0499:

**"When Playing a 6NT Contract as Bridge Declarer
and Things Look 'Easy', Maybe That's *Exactly*
When You Should Run a Bridge '*Safety Play*'!"**

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>

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/rpco.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 1/21/90 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "Avoiding the Anxiety Syndrome".

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2026. All rights reserved.

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: **NORTH**

Vul: **E/W**

NORTH (14)

S: A K T 7 6 5 3

H: Q 7 5 4

D: J

C: A

WEST (1)

S: --

H: J 6 2

D: T 9 8 7 5

C: 9 8 7 5 4

EAST (7)

S: J 9 8 4

H: T 9 8

D: A 6 4

C: Q T 2

SOUTH (18)

S: Q 2

H: A K 3

D: K Q 3 2

C: K J 6 3

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 S	PASS	2 NT *	PASS
3 S	PASS	4 NT **	PASS
6 NT	PASS	PASS	PASS

*N/S by Partnership Agreement are playing this bid as "showing" **13+** HCPs and a "flat" Hand and not "showing" **4** Spades.

SOUTH's 4NT** bid is not Blackwood and instead is a "quantitative raise" encouraging a slam bid. In this case SOUTH fortuitously choose 6**NT** over 6**S** for the **+10** bonus score bonus for making a **NT** contract.

On Trick **#1** WEST leads the Diamond Ten thus "promising" the "touching" Diamond 9. EAST "wins" with his Diamond Ace. Now Declarer **must** "win" all the remaining Tricks for his contract to "make".

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What is the gravest danger to Declarer SOUTH "making" his 6**NT** contract?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0499_a1.pdf