

# BEGINNERS' LESSONS

## Welcome



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# What is GAME?

- You get a large bonus for bidding and making a **GAME** contract
- The number of tricks required to make game depends on the trump suit or NoTrumps

3NT - 9 tricks

4♥/♠ - 10 tricks

5♣/♦ - 11 tricks



# What is Declarer looking for?

- **STEP ONE:** Find a fit
- **STEP TWO:** Decide the level to play the contract

**Partscore**

Total Points      Less than      **25**

**Game**

Total Points      **25 – 32**

**Slam**

Total Points      **33+**



# Lesson Two

## Playing the hand



In No trump contracts, work out your plan as follows:

Count your **TOP TRICKS**: \_\_\_\_ ♠ + \_\_\_\_ ♥ + \_\_\_\_ ♦ + \_\_\_\_ ♣ =  
\_\_\_\_ total

Calculate how many **MORE TRICKS** you need = \_\_\_\_

**WHERE** will the extra trick(s) come from?

**ESTABLISH** the \_\_\_\_ suit



## Play the honour from the short hand first

Does it matter how you play the honours as you establish a suit? – often the answer is **yes**

In Board 4 of the Module 1 practice hands, after establishing the three tricks, you **must** play **♠Q *first***, then cross over to the other winning ♠ honours in Dummy.



**K 8**

**You need one trick in this suit.  
Lead a small card towards the king. You hope the ace is on your left. If the ace is played, the king is now a winner. If the ace is not played, you will play the king and hope the ace is in the West hand.**

**A Q 7 4**



**J 10 9 2**

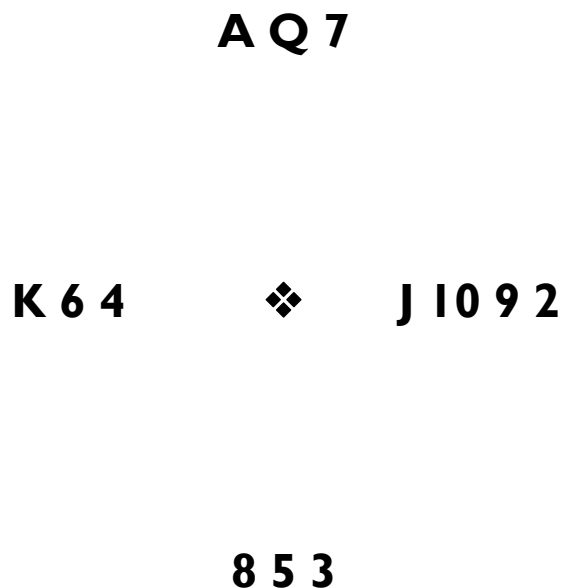
**6 5 3**



## The finesse

The principle is the same. You play towards a lower honour hoping to establish it as a winner.

Again we look for the missing honour to be favourably placed.



You need 2 tricks in this suit. Lead a low card towards the queen hoping the king is in the **West** hand.





## ***Leading – which card?***

*The recommended lead against a no trump (NT) contract is **bold** **underlined***

1. Lead top of a sequence of 3 or more honours. Sometimes, a top card from a sequence of 2 honours is a good lead, especially against a suit contract:

KQJ3      QJ97      KQ109      J1097      AKJ10      AK95

2. Lead a low card - a low card promises one or more honour(s) without a good sequence:

AJ875      KJ32 Q1086      Q64      J864

3. Lead top from small cards - a high card denies an honour:

8742      654      83



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