

LEADS AGAINST SUIT CONTRACTS

HANDOUT

WHEN TO LEAD TRUMP

Advantages of Leading a Trump:

1. Reduce declarer trumping losers in dummy.
2. To reduce declarer establishing a long suit by trumping.
3. To cut down entries between dummy and hand.
4. Defenders may take more tricks by not being trumped by declarer.

Disadvantages of Leading a Trump:

1. Leading trump helps declarer pull trump.
2. Defenders might have to take sure tricks right away.
3. Defenders may have to promote winners immediately.

FOUR SITUATIONS WHERE A TRUMP LEAD WORKS WELL:

- 1. LEAD TRUMP WHEN DECLARER BIDS TWO SUITS AND DUMMY PREFERS SECOND SUIT.**
 - a. To reduce declarer trumping losers in dummy.
- 2. LEAD TRUMP WHEN PARTNER PASSES YOUR ONE-LEVEL TAKEOUT DOUBLE.**
 - a. Implies partner has length and strength in declarer's trump suit and has converted a takeout double to a penalty double.
- 3. LEAD TRUMP WHEN OPPONENTS ARE OVERBIDDING AND YOU HAVE MORE POINTS.**
 - a. To reduce declarer from trumping defender's high cards when defenders have more high cards.
- 4. LEAD TRUMP IF DECLARER AND PARTNER ARE IN A LIKELY 4-4 TRUMP FIT.**
 - a. To prevent cross-ruffing by declarer.

WHEN NOT TO LEAD TRUMPS:

1. With an Attractive Alternative
 - a. Leading a solid sequence or touching high cards.
 - b. Leading a broken sequence
 - c. To establish defender's winners before declarer ruffs them.
 - d. Lead partner's suit to play winners early.
 - e. Lead a singleton, hoping for a ruff return.
2. If The Opponents Bid Strongly
 - a. Be aggressive, lead unbid suit(s) to find help in partner's hand.
3. When There is a Double Fit
 - a. Lead an unbid suit(s)
4. With Length in the Trump Suit
 - a. To run declarer out of trumps by making him ruff and lose trump control.
 - b. Lead 4th from longest & strongest suit to make declarer ruff & lose trump control.

OTHER SUIT LEADS:

CHOOSE THE SUIT:

1. A suit bid by partner.
2. A suit with a strong sequence.
3. A short suit.

CHOOSE THE CARD:

1. Lead the top of touching high cards.
2. Lead the top of a two-card suit.
3. Lead the fourth highest card.

CHOOSING A CARD TO LEAD IN PARTNER'S SUIT:

1. With a singleton, lead it.
2. With any two cards, lead the higher ranking KQ, Q8.
3. Holding the Ace, regardless of length, lead the Ace: A93, AJ4.
4. With three cards, lead the top of a sequence headed by an honor J109, 1092.
5. With only one honor, lead the bottom card: K82, Q54.
6. With four cards or more, lead the top of a sequence headed by an honor, and fourth best from any other holding.
7. Lead of a jack denies a higher honor.
8. Lead of a 10 promises 0 or 2 higher honors.
9. Lead King from AK doubleton. Never underlead an Ace unless a doubleton AK.