

ASSIGNMENT ANSWERS

LAST REVISED ON MARCH 8, 2018

1.
 - a) **Respond 2NT** (*invitational*). Your 8 HCP plus partner's 15-17 HCP means your partnership has 23-25 (8+15 to 8+17) total HCP so a game is possible if partner opened with 17 HCP. Since you do not have a four-card or longer major to use the *Stayman* or the *Transfer* convention, invite partner to bid the game in no trump.
 - b) **Respond 3NT** (*sign-off*). You have 10 HCP without a four-card or longer major. Since you know your partnership has 25-28 (10+15 to 10+17) total HCP, you should bid the game.
 - c) **Respond 3♣** (*invitational*). Your 8 HCP plus partner's 15-17 HCP means your partnership has 23-25 (8+15 to 8+17) total HCP. Your partner must also have at least two clubs which means the partnership has a golden eight-card club fit. If you add extra points for the length in clubs, a game is possible. Respond **3♣** to limit your strength, describe your length, and invite your partner to pass or bid a game contract in either **3NT** or **5♣**.
2.
 - a) **PASS**. Your 15 HCP plus partner's 8-9 HCP means your partnership only has 23-24 (15+8 to 15+9) HCP, not quite enough strength for game. You also have a lousy diamond suit. You should pass.
 - b) **Rebid 3NT** (*sign-off*). Your 17 HCP plus partner's 8-9 HCP gives your partnership 25-26 (17+8 to 17+9) HCP. This should be enough for a game especially because you have stoppers in all four suits although the spade stopper is weak.
 - c) **Rebid 3NT** (*sign-off*). Your 16 HCP plus partner's 8-9 HCP gives your partnership 24-25 (16+8 to 16+9) total HCP, on the borderline for a game. But you have excellent stoppers in all four suits which gives the partnership a good chance to make the game and earn the game bonus points.
3.
 - a) **Lead the ♥K**. Lead the top of three card solid sequence in the long and strongest suit. Hearts is also an unbid major because West did not initiate *Stayman* or a *Transfer*.
 - b) **Lead the ♠4**. Lead fourth highest in the long and strong suit. With two suits of equal length and strength, lead the unbid major.
 - c) **Lead the ♥9**. You follow East, the opening no trump bidder, which means the odds favor East holding the ♠KJ. If you lead the ♠3, fourth highest, you give East a "free finesse" against your ♠AQ. It is better to lead the ♥9, top of nothing, and wait for declarer or partner to lead spades toward your ♠AQ.
If you have a five-card suit headed by the AQ, the odds favor leading the fourth highest card in the suit.
4.
 - a) **Lead the ♠J**. Lead the top of the three card solid sequence. Because West did not initiate *Stayman* or a *Transfer*, the spade suit is also an unbid major.
 - b) **Lead the ♠4**. Lead the fourth highest from your longest and strongest suit. Since West did not initiate *Stayman* or a *Transfer*, West does not have a four card or longer major.

c) **Lead the ♦ J.** Lead the top of connecting honors from the interior three card broken sequence the five-card suit headed by the Ace. If you lead the ♦ 8, fourth highest, your partner will probably assume your lead was top of nothing. You could lead the ♦ 4, fifth highest, but that would be a small lie to your partner.

5. **PASS.** Your partner's bid is a *sign-off* bid which directs you to pass.

6. **Develop a plan to make the contract.**

Listen: The bidding is no help.

Observe: The ♣ K is probably top of connecting honors in a three card sequence or broken sequence. West should have 3+ clubs including the ♣ Q and either the ♣ J or ♣ T. If opponents gain the lead after you play your ♣ A, they might run their clubs and set the contract.

Pause: You must take 9 tricks.

Look: You have 9 sure winners (3 ♠ + 0 ♥ + 5 ♦ + 1 ♣).

Analyze: No extra tricks are needed and there is no safe way to establish an overtrick. The hearts are tempting but you must lose one trick to promote the hearts. Opponents will drive out your ♣ A and if you lead a heart, opponents will gain the lead with the ♥ A and run their clubs to set the contract.

Now Execute: Take the first trick with the ♣ A, then run the diamonds and the spades to make the contract.

7. **Rebid 3NT (or 5♦).** Your partner has 8-9 HCPs and you have 17 HCPs which means your partnership has 25-26 (17+8 to 17+9) total HCPs. Your partner also has at least six diamonds with two of the top four honors. Given a nine card diamond trump fit, you could bid a 5♦ game. But your diamonds should be solid which gives you six diamond tricks and with stoppers in the other suits you have a good chance to make more than three no trump to get a higher score.

8. **Develop a plan to make the contract.**

Listen: The bidding is no help.

Observe: The ♠ Q is probably top of connecting honors in a three card sequence or broken sequence. West should have 3+ spades including the ♠ J and either the ♠ T or ♠ 9. If opponents gain the lead after you play your ♠ A and ♠ K, they might run their spades and set the contract.

Pause: You must take 9 tricks.

Look: You have 6 sure winners (2 ♠ + 0 ♥ + 2 ♦ + 2 ♣).

Analyze: You can promote three hearts but you must lose one trick. The threat suit is spades. After taking the first trick, you will still have a spade stopper so you can afford to give up the lead one time.

Now Execute: Take the first trick with the ♠ K, then lead the ♥ J (lead the high card from the short side first). Continue leading hearts until the ♥ A falls. When you regain the lead take your winners and make the contract.