

DECLARER PLAY - WEEK 3
ASSIGNMENT ANSWERS

LAST REVISED ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

1. For the deal on the left side of the front page:

Listen: The bidding is no help.

Observe: The ♠J is probably top of connecting honors in a three card (broken) sequence. West should have the ♠T and either the ♠9 or the ♠8 or both.

Pause: You must take 9 tricks.

Look: You have 8 sure winners (3 ♠ + 2 ♥ + 0 ♦ + 3 ♣).

Analyze: If the missing diamonds are split 3-2 (68%) can develop two diamond tricks by losing three. Can afford the losses if opponents do not switch to hearts.

Execute: Cash the ♠Q which might make East think that West started with ♠KJT. This helps guard against East switching to hearts if East gains the lead. Lead diamonds at every opportunity.

Watch: Watch the diamond play carefully.

2. For the deal on the right side of the front page:

Listen: The bidding is no help.

Observe: The ♠5 is probably fourth highest in a four card or longer suit. West should have at least one of the missing spade honors but not all three because the lead was not the ♠K. That means that East has at least one spade honor. By the **Rule of 11**, that honor is the only spade higher than the 5 in East's hand.

$11 - 5 \text{ lead} = 6 - 2 \text{ higher in dummy} = 4 - 3 \text{ higher in hand} = 1 \text{ higher in East's hand}$
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Pause: You must take 7 tricks.

Look: You have 5 sure winners (1 ♠ + 0 ♥ + 2 ♦ + 2 ♣).

Analyze: The only hope is that the diamonds are split 3-2 (68%) so that two diamonds can be developed by losing one diamond trick. Since defenders will drive out the ♠A, at least one of the diamond honors must be preserved to gain entry to the dummy.

Execute: The **Guideline of 7** suggests holding the ♠A until the second trick to exhaust East's ability to return a spade.

$7 - 3 \text{ spades in dummy} = 4 - 3 \text{ spades in hand} = \text{holdup 1 time}$

Then cash the ♦A and lead a low diamond to lose.

Watch: Watch the diamond play. If the split is 4-1 or 5-0 defenders will set the contract.

If the missing spades are split 4-3 (62%), the contract can be made if you do not holdup the ♠A. But if the split is 5-2 (31%) the holdup improves your chance of making the contract.

3. For the deal on the left side of the back page:

Listen: The bidding is no help.

Observe: The ♥Q should be the top of connecting honors in a three card (broken) sequence. West should have the ♥J and either the ♥T or the ♥9 (or both).

Pause: You must take 8 tricks.

Look: You have 5 sure winners (0 ♠ + 2 ♥ + 0 ♦ + 3 ♣).

Analyze: Can promote three spades by losing one spade trick. Can afford the loss because of the second stopper in hearts. But defenders might holdup the ♠A so you must preserve an entry to the dummy.

Execute: Take the first trick with the ♥K to preserve the ♥A in the dummy. Lead a spade to start the promotion and keep leading spades until the ♠A falls. When you regain the lead, cash your winners to make the contract.

4. For the deal on the right side of the back page:

Listen: The bidding is no help.

Observe: The ♠Q is probably top of connecting honors in a three card (broken) sequence. West should have ♠J and either the ♠T or ♠9 (or both).

Pause: You must take 9 tricks.

Look: You have 5 sure winners (2 ♠ + 0 ♥ + 3 ♦ + 0 ♣).

Analyze: Can develop three diamonds if the missing diamonds are split 3-2 (68%) or the ♦J falls on the first three diamond tricks. But you must preserve the ♠A to gain entry to the dummy in case the diamonds are split 4-1 (28%) with ♦Jxxx. Can promote one heart by losing one trick. Can promote one club by losing two tricks but can only afford one loser before defenders establish their spades.

Execute: Take the first trick with the ♠K to preserve the ♠A in the dummy. Cash the ♦A and lead the ♦6 to the dummy's ♦K. Then cash the ♦Q and if the diamonds are split:

- ✓ 3-2 or ♦J did fall → Cash the remaining diamonds and lead a heart to promote.
- ✓ 4-1 and ♦J did not fall → Lead a diamond to lose. When you regain the lead with the ♠A, cash the developed diamonds, and lead a heart to promote.

Watch: Watch for a bad split and a play of the ♦J.

Note: You can not make the contract if:

- The diamond split is 4-1 (28%) and the ♦J does not fall.
- The diamond split is 5-0 (4%).