

## ASSIGNMENT ANSWERS

LAST REVISED ON FEBRUARY 8, 2016

1. a) **A no trump game contract.** You do not have an eight-card suit fit so the *suit guideline* suggests a no trump contract. You have 26 total HCP so the *point guideline* suggests a game contract.
  - b) **A no trump game contract.** You have 9 sure winners (0 ♠ + 4 ♥ + 4 ♦ + 1 ♣). Since the 6 missing spades are most likely divided 4-2 (48%) or 3-3 (35%), there is a 83% chance that defenders can only take four spade tricks and depending on how the spades are played, your ♠J might take an extra trick.
  - c) **Take your winners.** If West's opening lead is a club, defenders might be able to promote their clubs and, combined with the high spades, defeat the contract. This means that when you gain the lead you should take your nine winners to make the contract.
  
2. a) **A Diamond game contract.** You have a nine-card diamond fit so the *suit guideline* suggests a diamond contract. You have 29 total HCP so the *point guideline* suggests a minor suit game contract.
  - b) **A diamond game contract or a no trump game contract.** If diamonds are trump, you only have two losers, a club and a heart. So, you can take 11 tricks to make the contract and earn 400 points ( 5 x 20 = 100 + 300 bonus ).  
 But you also have 9 sure winners (3 ♠ + 0 ♥ + 5 ♦ + 1 ♣) and can take 9 tricks to make a no trump game contract and earn at least 400 points ( 40 + 2 x 30 = 100 + 300 bonus). If West leads anything but a club, you can promote three hearts to earn an extra 90 points.  
 Declare a no trump game contract!
    - c) **Take your winners.** The play will depend on West's opening lead:
      - ✓ If West leads a club, you must take your nine winners to make the contract. If you try to promote the hearts, defenders win the trick with the ♥A and then take at least four club tricks to defeat the contract.
      - ✓ If West leads any other suit, you can take the first trick and because you still have the ♣A, you can afford to promote the hearts and take an extra three tricks.
  
3. a) **A part score diamond contract.** You have an eight-card diamond fit so the *suit guideline* suggests a diamond contract. You have 27 total HCP so the *point guideline* suggests a minor suit part score contract.
  - b) **A no trump game contract.** You only have 6 sure winners (2 ♠ + 0 ♥ + 2 ♦ + 2 ♣ ) but you can promote three hearts by losing one trick. You can afford the loss because you have two stopper in the other three suits. You will score 400 by making the no trump game. If you declare a part score diamond contract you will earn a much lower score.
  - c) **Promote hearts.** Take the first trick and the promote the hearts while you still have a stopper in the other three suits. After the ♥A falls, gain the lead and cash your winners.

4. a) **West has the ♣Q and ♣T.** Because South has ♣J, the ♣K is probably top of connecting honors from a three card broken sequence.  
The eight missing clubs are most likely split 5-3 (47%) or 4-4 (33%), so West probably started with ♣KQTxx or ♣KQTx.
- b) **East has three or four low clubs.** East probably started with ♣xxx or ♣xxxx.
5. a) **West has the ♣J and ♣T.** Because North has the ♣9, the ♣Q is probably the top of connecting honors in a three card solid sequence.  
The nine missing clubs are most likely split 5-4 (59%) or (6-3) (33%), so West probably started with either ♣QJTxx or ♣QJTxxx.
- b) **East must have the ♣K.** East probably started with ♣Kxxx or ♣Kxx.
6. a) **West has no heart honors.** The ♥9 is probably top of nothing.
- b) **East must have the ♥A.**
7. a) **Your partner has 4 HCP.** You have 10 HCP so your partner has 4 HCP (40 - 26 - 10).
- b) **Lead the ♣K.** The ♣K is the top of a solid three card sequence in a four card suit.
- c) **You have the ♣K and ♣J.** This lead tells your partner that you have the next lower card, the ♣Q, and because the dummy has the ♣T you must also have the ♣J to make a three card sequence. This lead guarantees you will take at least two club tricks.
8. a) **Your partner has 8 HCP.** You have 6 HCP so your partner has 8 HCP (40 - 26 - 6).
- b) **Lead the ♣5.** The ♣5 is the fourth highest in a four-card suit with honors.
- c) **You have a club high card.** This lead tells your partner that you have at least one high card in clubs. Dummy is weak in clubs so your partner might have a high card to help you establish the ♣K and ♣Q.
9. a) **Your partner has 9 HCP.** You have 5 HCP so your partner has 9 HCP (40 - 26 - 5).
- b) **Lead the ♠9.** The ♠9 is the top of nothing. If partner has the ♠K, this lead guarantees that it will take a trick. The ♦9 is also top of nothing but a diamond lead gives declarer a "free finesse" against any high diamonds in partner's hand.
- c) **Your 5 HCP are in other suits.** Since a high spot card can not be fourth highest, it also means you probably do not have a four card suit with an honor.