



Adventures in Bridge

Leaders in Bridge Entertainment and Education

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Opening Leads – Vs. Suit Contracts Notes

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1. Attacking vs. Passive Opening Leads (“The Defenders’ Advantage”)
 - a. Attacking leads are made when we lead away from an honor. Attacking leads hope to set up a trick for our side (or more than one) by knocking out Declarer’s stopper in the suit. Attacking opening leads are often winning bridge!
 - b. Passive opening leads are made to not give up a trick (vs. trying to win a trick.) These leads are much rarer, and primarily used when we think the opponents are going to have a hard time making their contract on their own.
2. Purpose of Opening Leads
 - a. Suit Contracts (“Short term investment”): To establish tricks for our side before declarer can establish tricks for himself. We want to do so while giving up as few tricks as possible that the declarer did not deserve. Balance risk and reward.
3. Choice of Leads from an Honor vs. Suits – when leading without any other information.
 - a. Kxxx
 - b. Qxxx
 - c. Jxxx
 - d. Kxx
 - e. Qxx
 - f. Jxx
4. Card Combinations -- Suit Contracts: Two touching honors
 - a. AKx+
 - b. KQx+
 - c. QJx+
 - d. JTx+
 - e. KJT+
 - f. KT9+
 - g. QT9+
 - h. AK
 - i. KQ



5. When to Lead Trump
 - a. Leading trump is often a bad idea (giving up our advantage of getting to lead our suit), but there are certain times when the auction screams for us to lead a trump. Recognizing these situations takes practice. This is usually an example of an attacking opening lead – attacking the opponent’s ruffing values.
 - b. Leading trump is often an act of desperation. We tend to lead trump when leading any other suit seems even worse – this is a passive opening lead.

6. Leading Shortness - Getting a Ruff
 - a. Singletons – One of the Best Leads in Bridge!
 - b. Doubletons – Advantages and Disadvantage
 - i. Have a Trump Control!
 - c. Your Trump Holding
 - i. Axx, Kxx, etc.
 - ii. QJx, JTxx, etc.

7. Leads Against Slam – “Attack against trick-based slams!”
 - a. There are two types of hands where the opponents bid slam. Either they have HCP or tricks. The opponents are not often dealt 33 HCP. They are much more likely to have a source of tricks for slam (trick-based slam). On hands with tricks, slam will be a race. We try to set up our 2 tricks before the opponents take 12 tricks. To do so, we need to attack! Listen to the auction and determine which kind of slam we are defending.