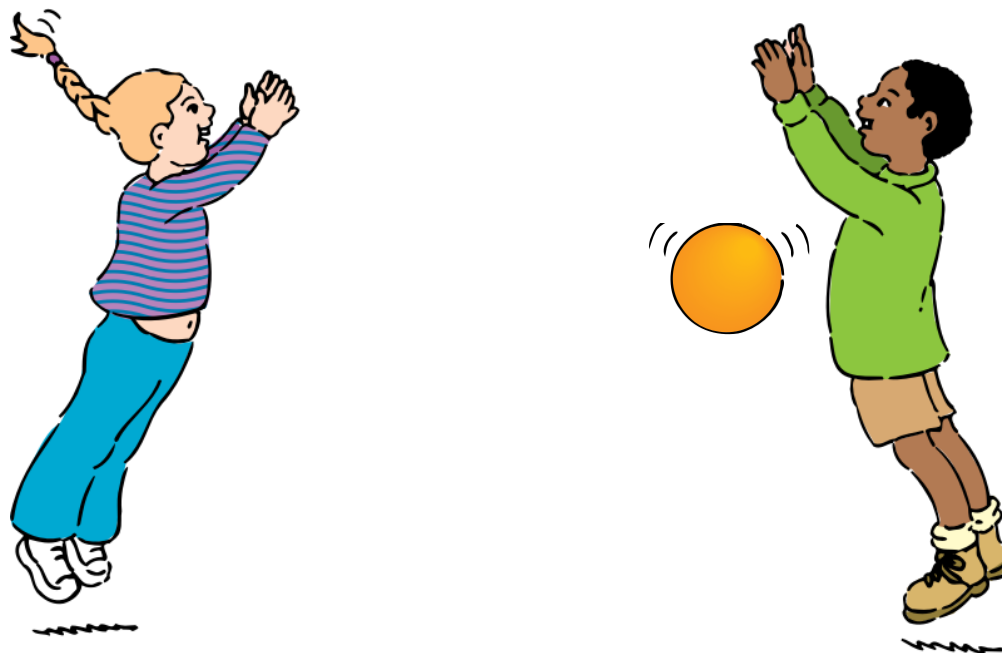


Don't Drop the Ball!

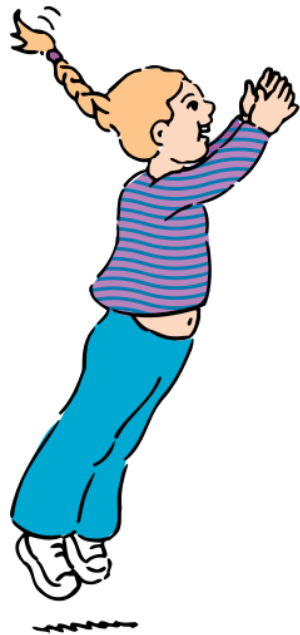
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I Always Return Partner's Suit



You Didn't Lead My Suit!



Think before you act!

Active Defense

- Designed to take as many tricks as possible as quickly as possible.
- If partner made an *attacking lead*, he or she is suggesting this defense.
- The bid of a suit by the eventual defending side *suggests* a possible line of attack
- **That line of defense is not a mandate!**

Passive Defense

- Designed to keep declarer from taking any tricks to which he or she is not entitled.
- If partner made a *protecting lead*, he or she is suggesting this defense.
- **That line of defense is not a mandate!**

Your Side Did Not Bid

Active or Passive Defense?

- Partner led a low spot card against a 3NT contract.
 - This is usually an *attacking* lead.
 - The card gives information about partner's length in the suit.
- To cooperate with partner's suggestion, return partner's suit when you win a trick.

	♠AJ97 ♥T97 ♦K52 ♣QT8	
♠ ♥4 ♦ ♣		♠K64 ♥83 ♦T98 ♣A9632
	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	

Auction (South dealer):

1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	3NT	All Pass

	♠AJ97 ♥T97 ♦K52 ♣QT8	
♠532 ♥AK642 ♦64 ♣754		♠K64 ♥83 ♦T98 ♣A9632
	♠QT8 ♥QJ5 ♦AQJ73 ♣KJ	

Did you win the first club and return your last heart to partner's long suit? If so, you set the contract!

Active or Passive Defense?

- Partner led a high spot card against a 3NT contract.
 - This is usually a *protecting* lead.
 - Partner wants to defend passively, *or*
 - Partner could not lead his long suit safely.
- To cooperate with partner's passive defense, return partner's suit when you win a trick, *or*
- Identify the suit that can be *attacked* productively.

	♠AJ75 ♥97 ♦K542 ♣T83	
♠ ♥ ♦9 ♣		♠QT86 ♥AK84 ♦T6 ♣965
	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	

Auction (South dealer):

1NT	Pass	2C	Pass
2H	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

	♠AJ75 ♥97 ♦K542 ♣T83	
♠432 ♥T32 ♦983 ♣AQ42		♠QT86 ♥AK84 ♦T6 ♣965
	♠K9 ♥QJ65 ♦AQJ7 ♣KJ7	

If you count points and known distribution, you know that partner has about 6 HCPs, 3 hearts, and 2 or 3 spades. *Partner's points are not in diamonds!* Spades and hearts are not safe to play, so when you win a trick, return a club. Did you set the contract?

Active or Passive Defense?

- The opponents bid three suits.
- Leading the unbid suit is the most frequent choice, but partner led declarer's second bid suit against a 4S contract.
 - This suggests a possible line of *attack*.
 - Could partner be leading a short suit?

	♠KQT8 ♥KJ ♦T73 ♣KJ72	
♠ ♥ ♦5 ♣		♠2 ♥98763 ♦A964 ♣A93
	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	

Auction (South dealer):

1S	Pass	2C	Pass
2D	Pass	3S	Pass
4S	Pass	Pass	Pass

	♠KQT8 ♥KJ ♦T73 ♣KJ72	
♠J53 ♥AQT542 ♦5 ♣654		♠2 ♥98763 ♦A964 ♣A93
	♠A9764 ♥ ♦KQJ82 ♣QT8	

From the auction, it's likely that partner has only 1 or 2 diamonds. No other line of defense looks exciting. Win the ♦A and return the ♦4, telling your partner your outside entry is in clubs. Did you return a heart, instead? I can sympathize, but it doesn't work on this hand.

You Bid a Suit

Active or Passive Defense?

- You opened the bidding.
- The next player overcalled 1NT.
- Your partner did not lead your suit against the opponents' 3NT contract!
 - Partner is trying to lead the longest suit in the *combined partnership* – another point of attack.
 - Partner probably has a void or singleton in your suit.

	♠ Q64 ♥ T54 ♦ KQ98 ♣ JT3	
♠ J ♥ ♦ ♣		♠ A32 ♥ AJ976 ♦ 43 ♣ K96
	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	

Auction (East dealer):

1H	1NT	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	All Pass

	♠ Q64 ♥ T54 ♦ KQ98 ♣ JT3	
♠ KJT9 ♥ 3 ♦ T752 ♣ 8754		♠ A32 ♥ AJ976 ♦ 43 ♣ K96
	♠ 875 ♥ KQ82 ♦ AJ6 ♣ AQ2	

Partner held the perfect cards and made the perfect lead. You take the first five tricks on defense. Look at what happens on this hand, if partner leads his singleton heart, instead of the ♠J.

Partner Bid a Suit

Active or Passive Defense?

- Partner opened the bidding 1D.
- Partner did not lead diamonds against the opponents' 1NT contract.
 - Partner cannot lead his own suit safely
 - The card partner leads may suggest a second line of attack.
- Lead partner's bid suit when you win a trick,
or
- Cooperate with the original lead, *if* that line of attack is more productive.

	♠AQT9 ♥Q987 ♦A6 ♣Q98	
♠ ♥2 ♦ ♣		♠J42 ♥AJT ♦432 ♣7432
	♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	

Auction (West dealer):

1D	Double	Pass	1NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

	♠AQT9 ♥Q987 ♦A6 ♣Q98	
♠K53 ♥K652 ♦KJ95 ♣KT		♠J42 ♥AJT ♦432 ♣7432
	♠876 ♥43 ♦QT87 ♣AJ65	

Partner's ♥2 suggests that he has an honor in hearts and possibly four cards. Surprise! You win the heart and return – partner's diamond suit. You and partner take at least seven trick. What happens if partner leads his diamond suit?

Summary

- When you and partner do not bid:
 - An honor card lead attacks, protects, and informs.
 - A low card lead:
 - *Tends* to show length in the suit
 - *Tends* to show an honor in the suit
 - A high card lead:
 - Denies values in the suit
 - May show shortness in the suit

Summary

- When you or your partner bids:
 - An active defense is suggested.
 - The lead of that suit
 - Starts the attack
 - Informs partner about the suit holding
 - Bidder does not lead the bid suit
 - Suggests suit cannot be led safely, *or*
 - Begins a different line of attack
 - Partner does not lead bidder's suit
 - Suggests a different line of attack

Questions?

Contact me via email.

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West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Opening Lead: ♦ 8			

1

♠ AQ964

♥ Q4

♦ 976

♣ AJ8

♠ 87

♥ J1092

♦ AQ43

♣ 1096

♠ KJ1032

♥ 63

♦ 852

♣ Q72

♠ 5

♥ AK875

♦ KJ10

♣ K543

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♦ 4

2

♠ J10962

♥ 1064

♦ K105

♣ 76

♠ Q5

♥ AK5

♦ Q62

♣ 109853

♠ A83

♥ QJ93

♦ J9

♣ AQJ2

♠ K74

♥ 872

♦ A8743

♣ K4

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening Lead: ♣ J

3

♠ J82

♥ KQ106

♦ AKJ5

♣ 43

♠ AQ1053

♥ 93

♦ Q92

♣ J106

♠ 94

♥ 84

♦ 10643

♣ A8752

♠ K76

♥ AJ752

♦ 87

♣ KQ9

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	2 ♣
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening Lead: ♦ 7

4

♠ K92
♥ 98652
♦ 7
♣ 10853

♠ AJ654
♥ K7
♦ QJ1086
♣ J

♠ Q107
♥ AQ104
♦ A95
♣ 764

♠ 83
♥ J3
♦ K432
♣ AKQ92