

Mike Lawrence has a great book on card reading called "How to read your opponents cards" which the problems presented here came from. Your partner should have basic agreements on carding. Most experienced players do not under lead aces against suit contracts, I know fooling the opponents is great but if you have an agreement not to under lead aces partner can immediately know who has the ace. Agreements vary on leads but here we will lead the top of sequences and play the bottom of sequences when following suit.

Don't play to fast at trick one.

Count your winning and losing trick.

Determine what the opening lead tells you.

If you can look deep into the hand and see if you need a specific card or suit is needed for success.

If a player makes a non-descript lead chances are that they do not have an AK, KQ or QJ sequence.

Review the auction

Overcallers usually have a 5 card suit.

Doublers usually have shortness in that suit or a big hand.

Opener usually has 12 hcp's.

Premptors usually have less than 10 hcp's.

NT openers have a specific range of values.

Simple raises and limit raises show a range.

Pass by opener shows limited values.

CAVEAT, rules are sometimes broken.

Hand 1 You are in 4 H with no bidding. Opening lead S Q

K742

AQ4

K32

A32

63

KJ1065

A65

K64

Questions

How many winners do you have?

Who has S A? What spade distribution do you need?

Can you make this contract?

Hand 2

AQ10
KJ104
A109
KQJ

9865432
8
Q86
85

Bidding	West 1nt	North double	East 2c	South 2s
	West p	North 4s	p	p
	P			

Opening lead club J

Questions. Who has the CA? How many points do you have? How many points does West have? (bidding) Do you know where every HCP is? Do you finesse for the SJ?

Hand 3

92
10 643
J8
AQJ3

A7
AKQ962
Q1053
4

Bidding	West p	North p	East p	South 1 H
	West 1S	North2 H	East 4 S	South 5 H
	West p	North p	East p	

Opening lead S 6

Questions? Who has the Spade K, Spade Q Spade J?

Who has the Diamond A and Diamond K?

Questions. How many points do you have? Opponents?

How many winners do you have? Losers?

How are you going to make this contract?

Hand 4

AJ84
AK3
Q1093
Q4

Q10973
Q4
K4
7632

Bidding	East 1C	South P	West P	North Double
	P	1 S	West P	North 3S
	P	4 S	All P	

Opening lead C A then C 9. East wins and shifts to H J.

Questions. How many points do you have?

How many more points does West have?

Who opened the bidding?

Who has the D A?

Who has the S K?

Hand 5

AQ42
87
KJ86
Q104

KJ1073
10
104
KJ983

Bidding	North 1D	East P	South 1 S	West P
	2 S	P	4S	All Pass

Opening lead H 2

Questions. How many H does West have? How many East?

Who has the H A? H K? H Q?

Who has the C A?

Who has the D A?

Hand 6

Q7643
K 5
962
Q65

9
AJ10964
AK3
942

Bidding. West 1S North P East 1NT South 2H

All Pass

Opening lead. Diamond J

Questions. Who has the D Q?

Who has the S A? Who has the S K?

Who has the C A? Who has the C K?

Who has the H Q?

How many points do you have? How many points does West have? East

Hand 6

Q 1076
93
K53
K642

AJ842
KJ2
76
A107

Bidding.	East 1H	South 1 S	West 2 H	North 2 S
	3H	P	P	3S

All Pass

Opening lead. D 10

Questions. How many points do you have?

Question. Who has the AQJ of diamonds? Can the 10 be a singleton or doubleton?

Question. Who has the Heart Ace? Heart Queen?

Question. Who has the Spade king?

Hand 7

982
Q7642
A9
J42

KQJ10743
K83
Q
A8

Bidding, East 3 C 4S All Pass

Opening lead C9 taken by South's A. SK goes to East's A and East cashes C K, leads CQ which South ruffs with honor and West following.

Question. How many clubs does East have?

Who had D K?

Who has H A?

Tough problem, what now?

Hand 8

74
KJ973
J93
J94

KQJ108532
A104
K
10

Bidding. West 1NT North P East 2D to play South 4 S
All pass

Opening lead CK taken by CA, SK taken by SA, CQ ruffed in hand.

Tough hand what now?

Question what did West open?

Question how many points do you have?

Who has DA, DQ?

How many points has West played so far