

Opening Leads

This is the first lesson of three on **general defensive play**.
These three lessons (Lesson 6, 7 and 8) should be taught in order.
Lesson 8 is large and can be split into two lessons.

Lesson Content

Finding the correct lead is the first step in gathering as many defensive tricks as possible.
The leads differ in approach between notrump and suit contracts.

Main Points to Emphasise

Review the auction as this may give you a clue on what to lead.
Discuss the differences between leading to a notrump or suit contract

1. Which suit to lead

- lead partner's suit (if they have bid one)
- lead longest/strongest
- lead an unbid suit (particularly if it is a major)
- when to lead a shortage
- when to lead trumps

2. Which card to lead

- lead top of a sequence
- lead a low card showing an honour
- lead a high card showing NO honour

Play hands 1-4

Supper time

After Supper

- Teacher can summarise the leads.
- Also mention that subsequent leads do not change during the defence.
- Defenders should not keep opening up new suits without a good reason.
- Finally, it is not a guarantee that all the leads will be successful but in the long run they will be.
- Bring the best results

Teacher should keep their talking to a minimum.

Play hands 5-8