Beginners’ Lessons: Hands from Lesson 6 to 10

Lesson 7
West has a perfect 1 NT overcall (16-18 HCP and a good stop in the opponent's suit). East only needs 10 HCP to bid game.

The ♠ 10 lead is the top of partner's suit.

Declarer plays a club, so they can then play a heart towards the ♥ AQ. They play the ♥ Q (a finesse), then Ace and another heart.

Lesson 5
North opens their longest suit and then raises in partner's spades. EW should compete in hearts. South has great shape and should bid game once the spade fit is known.

Lead is ♥ A - partner's suit.

Declarer must ruff two small hearts in dummy before drawing trumps.

Lesson 6
West responds 1 ♥, their lowest ranking 4-card suit. East with heart support and 16 HCP jumps to 3 ♥ to invite game. With 10 HCP, West accepts the invitation.

Lead of the 2 ♠ is promising an honour.

Lesson 8
North's best suit is the opponent's spade suit so should bid 1 NT to show a hold in spades and no more than 9 points.

Lead is ♦ 7.

Firstly, Declarer should play on clubs and later take a heart finesse.

Lesson 9
North’s raise to game is solely based on the 4-card trump support. EW can make 4 ♦ but will probably find it too difficult to bid.

DO NOT lead a small spade which would promise an honour.

Declarer can make 8 tricks. EW could have made game in spades.
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**Lesson 10**

North’s 2 is a game force bid. 2 by South shows 0-7 HCP. North’s 2 bid shows at least 5 spades.

**South must not pass, so bids to game 4**

Lead is ♠ K.

Declarer should try to ruff two low hearts before drawing trumps.

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**Lesson 10**

After East’s game force bid, West bids 3 to show 8+ HCP.

Once the heart fit is found, West knows there are at least 32 points between the 2 hands. West should bid 4 NT to ask for aces and then bid the heart slam.

Lead is ♠ Q.

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**Lesson 10**

North’s 6 points are enough to bid game.

Declarer should use the diamond entries to double finesse in hearts.

Win the ♦ K and run the ♥ 10 which will lose to the ♥ K.

Back to dummy with a diamond and run the ♥ 9. After that, declarer should play on clubs.

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**Lesson 9**

North opens 3 showing a weak 7 card suit. South must not be tempted to bid, as their hand is not good enough.

Lead is ♥ 9 - top of a doubleton.

North should play a heart towards dummy, then take a trump finesse.