

Defence: Opening Leads

Defence starts with the Opening Lead

Leading against a Notrump Contract

- Lead partner's suit (if they bid one)
- Lead top of a sequence of 3 honours or broken sequence KQJ3 KQ109
- Lead a **low card from a suit with an honour** AJ854 K932 Q64
- Lead a **high card from a suit with NO honour** 974 8742
- Lead an unbid major before an unbid minor – opponents usually bid a major if they have one

Leading against a Suit Contract

- Lead partner's suit (if they have bid one)
- Lead top of a sequence of 2 or 3 honours QJ932 J1065
- Lead a **singleton in a side suit**
– you may be able to get a ruff with a small trump
- Lead a **low card from a suit with an honour, EXCEPT** a suit with the Ace at the top
- Lead a **high card from a suit with NO honour** 97642 104

Summary

- ♣ If there is a suit not bid the opponents, then without an obvious lead, lead that suit
- ♣ If you lead a **low card you will promise an honour** in that suit
- ♣ If you lead a high card (like a 9, 8 or 7) then you deny holding an honour in that suit
- ♣ If you lead an honour card, it should show at least the honour below that
- ♣ **Don't lead away from an Ace in a suit contract** – you may lose to a singleton K