

# Cardiff Bridge Tutors

## How to Lead against No Trump Contracts

Leads	
v. suit contracts	<p>A <u>K</u>    A <u>K</u> x    <u>K</u> Q 10    <u>K</u> Q x    K <u>J</u> 10    K <u>10</u> 9    <u>Q</u> J 10</p> <p><u>Q</u> J x    <u>J</u> 10 x    10 x <u>x</u>    <u>10</u> 9 x    9 <u>8</u> 7 x    10 x x <u>x</u>    H x <u>x</u></p> <p>H x x <u>x</u>    H x x <u>x</u> x    H x x <u>x</u> x x    <u>x</u> x    x <u>x</u> x    x <u>x</u> x x</p>
v. NT contracts	<p>A <u>K</u> x (<u>x</u>)    A <u>J</u> 10 x    <u>K</u> Q 10    <u>K</u> Q x    K <u>J</u> 10    K <u>10</u> 9    <u>Q</u> J 10</p> <p><u>Q</u> J x    <u>J</u> 10 x    10 x <u>x</u>    <u>10</u> 9 x    9 <u>8</u> 7 x    10 x x <u>x</u>    H x <u>x</u></p> <p>H x x <u>x</u>    H x x <u>x</u> x    H x x <u>x</u> x x    <u>x</u> x    <u>x</u> x x    <u>x</u> x x x</p>

## Two types of lead.

Leads are described as :-

- Active
  - When you try to win the trick or set up a winning trick
- Passive
  - You play a card that will lose anyway to gain more information (See what is in Dummy)

**When leading against No Trumps it is usual to make an active lead.** You want to cash your winners and not allow the opposition to gain the lead and run a long suit at you!

## Your first decision!

The first decision is to choose the suit from which you are going to lead.

You will need to look for clues from the bidding.

- Did your partner bid?
- Was there an unbid suit?
- What was the last suit that the opposition agreed (it may be the unbid suit)?
- Do you have a long suit that you can establish?

Here are some examples

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Diamonds was tacitly agreed, it is their weakest suit. It would be a good suit to choose.

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

Lead to partner's bid suit and choose a card from your ♥ suit.

Sometimes you appear not to have many clues from the bidding when the opposition bid straight to a NT Contract.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

But the fact that they didn't look for a major suit fit (Blackwood or Transfers) indicates that they do not have long major suits.

Lead from a major in this case!

## Suit chosen – pick a card!

Here is the choice of card from best to worst-

1. Top of a sequence (three +)
2. Top of an internal sequence (or near sequence)
3. 4th from an honour
4. MUD
5. Doubleton/Singleton

### 1. Top of a sequence

a) A perfect sequence

<b>A</b> K Q x
<b>K</b> Q J x
<b>Q</b> J 10 x
<b>J</b> 10 9 x

b) A near sequence

<b>A</b> K Q x
<b>K</b> Q J x
<b>Q</b> J 10 x
<b>J</b> 10 9 x

c) An interior sequence

<b>A</b> <b>Q</b> J x
<b>K</b> <b>J</b> 10 x
<b>Q</b> <b>10</b> 9 x

## 2. Fourth from an Honour

A 8 6 5
Q 8 7 4 2

When lead fourth from an honour your partner should use the Rule of Eleven (See Rule of Eleven booklet)

## 3. Middle Up Down (MUD)

Lead the second card from a suit containing three or more cards with no card higher than a 9.

8 7 2
9 6 5 3
7 6 5 3 2

## 4. Doubleton or Singleton.

You would not normally lead a singleton. Only do this if it is the suit that partner bid.

Lead the top card of a doubleton.