

1	<p>♠ 6 4 ♥ A Q 7 4 ♦ A K 8 4 2 ♣ K 8</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 40px; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	<p>♠ A J 10 9 3 ♥ J ♦ Q 10 5 ♣ J 10 7 4</p>	<p>Dealer: North Neither Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South		1♦	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
N	E																			
W	S																			
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3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass																	
No. 11217	<p>♠ K Q 5 2 ♥ 10 8 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ A 9 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 8 7 ♥ K 9 6 5 3 2 ♦ J 3 ♣ Q 6 5</p>		<p>Opening Lead: ♦ J</p>																

Illustrates:
Overcall

Overcall Raised to the 3 level

Bidding Commentary

North has an unbalanced hand and opens 1 of the longest suit. East has good 5 card spade suit and should make an overcall of 1♠. This silences South.

Partner has 4 nice spades. They can figure out that partner has 5 spades, and the partnership has 9. Moreover partner should have the AJ, unless they have outside strength.

West does best to raise to 3♠. If it turns out to be a losing contract it has probably prevented the opponents finding their fit, and making a bigger score.

Defence Commentary

South has a doubleton in partner's suit and should therefore make the standard lead of the highest, here the ♦J.

Conclusions

EW should go 2 down. However in an uncontested auction NS can make 4♥.

2	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 7 2 ♥ 7 6 5 3 ♦ K J 9 ♣ 8 6 5 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 4 3 ♥ A K 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ K Q J 10 9 7</p> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>S</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A K 6 5 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ 4 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ Q J 10 9 8 ♥ J 8 4 ♦ A 10 8 2 ♣ A</p>	N		E	W		S	<p>Dealer: East NS Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 ♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 ♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2 NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">Opening Lead: ♠ Q</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
N		E																						
W		S																						
West	North	East	South																					
		Pass	1 ♠																					
2 ♣	Pass	2 NT	Pass																					
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass																					

No. 10920

Illustrates:

- 2NT Response
- Overcall
- Signalling
- Switching
- Third Hand

Overcall Helps to Defeat The Contract

Bidding Commentary

West has an easy overcall of 2♣. North is weak and must pass.

East's 2NT response to a two level overcall shows 10-12 HCP. West, with 7 taking tricks, has an easy raise to 3NT. A 3♣ rebid would be non-forcing and cowardly to the max.

Defensive Commentary:

South, with a long sequence headed by an honour has an easy lead. North plays the ♠2 at trick one to deny an honour. When partner leads the queen vs. notrump, third hand unblocks or overtakes with honour doubleton, signals encouragement with an honour plus length, otherwise plays low. No high-lows with small doubletons! This is notrump. North cannot ruff the third spade!

Play Commentary:

East wins trick one with the ♠K, keeping North in doubt as to whether South has led from a QJ or an AQJ combination. With an AK(x) stopper, taking the first trick at notrump with the king is far more deceptive than winning with the ace. Taking the first lead of a suit with the ace is sort of a give away. A declarer that just has the ace usually holds up.

Defensive Commentary 2:

After winning the ♣A, South counts East for at least 9 quick tricks: 5 clubs, 2 spades, and at least 2 hearts. When declarer has enough quick tricks in 3 suits to make the contract, it's not a bad idea to shift to

the fourth suit. Actually, it's a very good idea! If South shifts to the ♦2, North wins the ♦K and returns the ♦J (higher of two remaining cards). The defence peels off four diamond tricks. Down one. And how does North know to return the ♦J and not a spade? When South leads a low card in the second suit (♦2), he wants the second suit returned. If South leads a high spot card in the second suit, he wants the first suit returned. Got it?

→

3

<p>♠ 9 5 4 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ 9 4 3 ♣ A 7 6 4</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"></td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		W	E		S	<p>♠ J 10 8 ♥ Q 10 6 ♦ A Q J 10 8 ♣ J 3</p> <p>♠ A K Q 7 6 ♥ 9 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ K 9 5 2</p> <p>♠ 3 2 ♥ A K J 8 5 3 ♦ K 6 ♣ Q 10 8</p>
N								
W	E							
	S							

Dealer: South
EW Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
			1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	2 ♠	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening Lead: ♠ 4

No. 11202

Illustrates:

- Level Beginning
- Opening 1Major
- Overcall
- Shape Unbalanced
- Opening Lead
- Partners Suit
- Signalling
- Switching

lead back in diamonds. Then they would have played the ♠9.

Overcall Helps to Defeat The Contract

Leading Partner's Suit

After a straightforward auction and overcall West has to make the opening lead. Partner made a 2 level overcall in spades which promises a good suit and opening strength, so West should lead a spade. But which one?

When leading partner's suit the rules for choosing the card change. This is because you are not leading blind; you know partner has length and strength in the suit. Had you supported partner they would know you had length, but would not know if you had strength. Here West did not support partner, so the thing that East most wants to know is if you have length in spades.

The correct lead is therefore the ♠4. To East this will look like a low card, which should show a holding of 3 or more. East will figure out that it must be 3 else West would have raised spades. This means declarer has 2 spades.

After taking two tricks in spades east should switch. The only hope is in clubs. East should therefore lead a low spade, the 2, hoping that partner holds the ♠A. When West wins they know to lead back a club.

Note: on the second round of spades West will play the 5. East can then see that the spots are going upwards, confirming that partner started with 3 or more.

Note: Had East held the ♦K rather than than the ♠A they would have wanted partner to

4	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q 10 8 6 4 ♥ 8 2 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ K 8</p> <table style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ A 5</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♠ 7 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ K Q J 9 5</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">W E</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♥ A 10 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ K 6 5 3</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♦ 10 8 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ J 5</td> <td></td> <td style="padding: 5px;">♣ 7 6 4 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ J 9 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ Q J 9 ♣ A Q 10 9 2</p>	♠ A 5	N	♠ 7 3 2	♥ K Q J 9 5	W E	♥ A 10 3	♦ K 6 5 3	S	♦ 10 8 2	♣ J 5		♣ 7 6 4 3	<p>Dealer: West Both Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">Opening Lead: ♥ A</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♠ A 5	N	♠ 7 3 2																								
♥ K Q J 9 5	W E	♥ A 10 3																								
♦ K 6 5 3	S	♦ 10 8 2																								
♣ J 5		♣ 7 6 4 3																								
West	North	East	South																							
1♥	2♠	Pass	4♠																							
Pass	Pass	Pass																								

No. 11216

Illustrates:

- Overcall Int Jump
- Partners Suit
- Finesse
- Suit Breaks

Jump Overcall

Bidding Commentary

West makes a routine opening of 1♥. North has a strong hand with a good 6 card suit. So, in Standard English Acol, North should make a jump overcall of 2♠. This shows opening strength and a good 6 card suit. Moreover with this long a suit the hand will have less then 7 losers, typically 6 or perhaps 5.

East is weak and must pass.

South has a fit (6+2=8), 10 HCP and a very nice club suit that is likley to play for 3/4 tricks. So South should bid game.

Defence Commentary

When partner has bid it is usually right to lead their suit. But because of the extra information, i.e. partner has shown a long suit, the leading style is different. here the right lead is the ♥A. This denies the K and asks partner to play a Hi card if they hold the King. To avoid any doubt West should play the ♥K! This unambiguously shows possession of the Q.

East should now lead back the highest remaining heart, here the 10. East can figure out that declarer has no card higher than the 10. So West has Options. If they want to win it they should play the ♥J (Bottom of sequence) or they can play low if they want partner to retain the lead.

Play Commentary

Declarer loses the first two tricks plus the Ace of trumps, so they must not lose any more.

They play trumps until the ace has been played, and continue until the opponents are exhausted. Then careful play is required.

Firstly they have to hope that West holds the ♠K, and lead the ♦Q towards the ♠A. This is virtually guaranteed to succeed as West opened and must therefore hold virtually all the outstanding points after East has played an ace.

Secondly declarer has to hope that clubs split no worse than 4-2. North should start with the ♠K, then the ♠A. When the J falls the 10 9 are promoted to winners and a diamonds can be discarded on the long clubs.

5

♠ 8 5 2	N W E S	♠ Q J 9 7 3
♥ A Q 5		♥ 10 7 4
♦ 8 4 3		♦ A K 6
♣ 8 7 5 3		♣ K 10
		♠ 10 6
		♥ J 9 3 2
		♦ Q 10 2
		♣ J 9 6 2

Dealer: North
NS Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	1 ♠	1 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

No. 10629

Opening Lead: ♠ 10

Illustrates:
Overcall 1NT

1NT Overcall

North opens 1♠ but East has 17 HCP and the top two cards of opener's suit. East overcalls 1NT. No one now has anything further to contribute and the final contract is 1NT.

Declarer has 6 certain tricks and must risk the finesse to make the contract.

6	<p>♠ 10 7 6 ♥ 9 8 6 3 ♦ K 3 2 ♣ 5 4 3</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 40px; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><td> </td><td>N</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td>E</td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td>S</td><td> </td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		<p>♠ K J 9 ♥ A Q 10 ♦ 5 4 ♣ K Q J 9 8</p>	<p>Dealer: East EW Vulnerable</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">West</td> <td style="width: 25%;">North</td> <td style="width: 25%;">East</td> <td style="width: 25%;">South</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> </table>	West	North	East	South	2♦	Pass	1♣	1♠	3NT	Pass	2NT	Pass			Pass	Pass
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W	E																												
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West	North	East	South																										
2♦	Pass	1♣	1♠																										
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		Pass	Pass																										
No. 10972	<p>♠ 4 2 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ A Q J 10 9 ♣ A 10 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q 8 5 3 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ 7 6</p>	<p>Opening Lead: ♠ 5</p>																										

Illustrates:

- Overcall
- Shape Balanced
- Danger Hand

Overcall Helps Declarer

Bidding Commentary

East is too strong to open 1NT and bids 1 of their longest suit. South has a good 5 card spade suit and more than 8 HCP, so overcalls 1♠. West has game points and a good diamond suit, so calls 2♦. East can now see that the partnership has game points. Moreover with KJ9 in the overcalled suit it is reasonable to bid game in NT.

Defensive Commentary

Leading away from AQ is not a nice lead but provided that partner has as little as 10XX it will be the best available. With no honours in dummy North should play the 10, third hand high. This forces the J. If the lead is gained in time leading back the ♠7 will defeat the contract.

Play Commentary

The opening lead can be won with the J. This leaves ♠K9. Since South is now marked with the A the contract will fail if North gains the lead and leads back a spade. East is the danger hand.

North must be kept off lead. In contrast if South is on lead they can do no damage. And a spade lead into the K9 would be very welcome.

Declarer has 8 certain tricks:

- 1 spade
- 1 heart
- 1 diamond
- 5 clubs

Extra tricks can be setup by finessing in either diamonds or hearts. The diamonds are appealing but only the heart finesse is safe.

7

<p>♠ A K Q 5 4 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ 9 6 ♣ K 8 5</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;"> </td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;"> </td><td style="padding: 2px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;"> </td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td><td style="padding: 2px;"> </td></tr> </table>	N		E	W				S		<p>♠ J 9 ♥ 8 5 ♦ Q 10 8 5 4 2 ♣ Q 10 3</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 3 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ A K ♣ J 9 7 4 2</p>
N		E										
W												
	S											
<p>♠ 8 7 ♥ K Q J 10 7 6 ♦ J 7 3 ♣ A 6</p>												

Dealer: South
Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	4♠	1♥
Pass	Pass		Pass

No. 10609

Opening Lead: ♥ 8

Illustrates:
Overcall

Jump Overcall

Bidding Commentary

South has a light opener with 11 points and a good 6 card suit. West also has an opening hand with a good 6 card suit. In Standard English West should make a jump overcall of 2♠. This shows opening points and a good 6 card spade suit.

North cannot bid and East knows that they have a 9 card fit and game points, so raises directly to game.

Defence Commentary

North should make the standard lead in partners suit: top of a doubleton.

Play Commentary

West has a certain loser in hearts and must avoid 3 losers in clubs. So when in dummy they should lead small towards the ♠K.

(10609)

8

<p>♠ 8 4 ♥ 9 6 ♦ A K Q J 3 ♣ K Q J 10</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	E	W	S	<p>♠ K 7 6 ♥ A Q 8 5 3 ♦ 10 7 2 ♣ 8 4</p> <p>♠ J 10 9 ♥ K J 10 4 2 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 9 6 3</p>	<p>♠ A Q 5 3 2 ♥ 7 ♦ 9 5 4 ♣ A 7 5 2</p>
N	E						
W	S						

Dealer: West			
Neither Vulnerable			
West	North	East	South
1♦	1♥	Pass	1♠
2♣	2♠	Pass	Pass
?			

No. 11218

Opening Lead: ♦ A

Illustrates:
Overcall
Shape Unbalanced

Overcaller's Partner Changes the Suit

Bidding Commentary

West opens and North overcalls in hearts. East would like to make a penalty double, but in standard bidding it would be a negative double which promises 4 spades, so they must pass. South has a nice hand and has spade suit at least as good as the heart suit promised by partner, so calls 1♠. West has a very strong hand and in order to encourage partner to bid they should shows their second suit. But North has a fit and should raises spades, which should become the contract.

Defence Commentary

West leads the A♦ and follows with the J (Bottom of sequence)
East does not have a certain trump trick, so should encourage a third round of diamonds by playing 8 then 6. However after three rounds of diamonds South does best to switch to clubs.

Declarer Commentary

Declarer, after winning the A♣ should lose a round of clubs so that the potentially losing clubs can be ruffed in dummy.