

OPENING LEADS QUIZ (with Answers) by Maritha Pottenger

1. What are best times to lead a trump?
 - a. When opponents sacrifice
 - b. When Declarer shows a 2-suited or 3-suited hand
 - c. When Declarer bids 2 suits and Dummy strongly prefers 2nd and you have good values in 1st suit
 - d. When the bidding suggests a cross-ruff.
 - e. Against a grand slam in a suit
 - f. When partner passes a one-level take-out double, converting to penalties.
 - g. When opponents have struggled to game and you have single honors or tenaces in other three suits. (Least of Evils lead).

2. What is the best time to lead a singleton (or doubleton)?

Answer: With a weak hand and trump control.

3. When is the worst time to lead a singleton?

Answer: Against a small slam when you have an Ace.

4. When are bad times to lead a doubleton?
 - a. When you have a natural trump trick(s) anyway.
 - b. When you have so much strength that partner can have almost nothing.

5. When should you lead an Ace even though you do not have the King?
 - a. When opponents bid to 5 of a minor, skipping 3NT and that suit appears to be wide open.
 - b. When opponents cue bid to slam (or stop at 5 level) and no one shows 1st-round control of that suit.
 - c. At the 5 level or above when the auction suggests you need to cash tricks quickly.
 - d. Against a Gambling 3NT (showing solid minor) to see dummy.
 - e. When partner makes lead-directing double for that suit.

6. When should you make an attacking lead?
 - a. When someone has shown a long suit on which losers can be discarded.
 - b. When you know from the auction that things are sitting well for Declarer.
 - c. When the opponents have shown a lot of strength (things are dire for your side).
 - d. When you have 4 trumps or suspect that partner has 4 trumps (Forcing Game).

7. When should you make a passive lead?
 - a. When opponents have struggled to get to game (no extras).
 - b. When you suspect balanced hands all around.
 - c. Against 2NT-P-P-P.
 - d. Against 6NT.
 - e. Against a grand slam
 - f. When you have strength behind Declarer in one or more of his/her suits and don't want to finesse yourself.

8. Does leading away from tenaces such as KJxx(x) or AQxx(x) work well against No Trump?

Answer: If you have five cards, usually yes. If you have only 4 cards, often no (may lose a trick that does not come back).

9. When partner bids a suit and you have three cards with an honor, which card to you lead?
Answer: lead low UNLESS Dummy has bid No Trump. In that case, lead your honor.