

Beginners' Lesson 5 (Option A): Balanced Hands

Board 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

♠ 9 7
 ♥ J 6 5
 ♦ A K 8
 ♣ A 9 8 4 3

♠ Q 10 4 2
 ♥ K 9 8 2
 ♦ 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 2

♠ K 8 6
 ♥ A 10 7
 ♦ Q J 10 5
 ♣ J 10 5

♠ A J 5 3
 ♥ Q 4 3
 ♦ 9 4 3
 ♣ K 7 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT	Pass	Pass

Lead: ♦ Q

North's 1 NT shows 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand. South has 10 HCP which is not enough for game so should pass (South needs 11-12 HCP to invite game).

The ♦ Q lead is the top of a sequence.

Declarer plays on the club suit by leading towards K♣ then a small club back to the Ace. Now lose a club to set up the last two clubs.

Board 5
 North Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ K Q 10
 ♥ K Q 8 3
 ♦ A J 4
 ♣ Q J 2

♠ 6 5 3
 ♥ 10 6 4
 ♦ Q 9 7
 ♣ K 10 6 4

♠ A 9 4
 ♥ J 5 2
 ♦ 6 5 3
 ♣ A 9 7 5

♠ J 8 7 2
 ♥ A 9 7
 ♦ K 10 8 2
 ♣ 8 3

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

Lead: ♣ 5

North knows they do not have a spade fit so rebids 2 NT promising 18-19 HCP. South with 8 HCP, has enough to bid to game.

Lead of a small club promises an honour.

Declarer plays on spades to knock out the Ace and thereby promote three spade tricks.

Board 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♠ K J 7 4
 ♥ 3
 ♦ 8 6 4 3
 ♣ J 5 3 2

♠ 8 2
 ♥ K Q 10 8 7 5
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ K 8 6

♠ A 9 6 5
 ♥ A 4 2
 ♦ J 7 5
 ♣ A 9 7

♠ Q 10 3
 ♥ J 9 6
 ♦ A 10 9 2
 ♣ Q 10 4

West	North	East	South
4♥	All pass	1 NT	Pass

Lead: ♠ 4

East's 1 NT promises a balanced hand with 12-14 HCP. West knows that East has at least two hearts and therefore they have a heart fit so should bid 4♥.

Lead of a small spade promises an honour.

Declarer draws trumps then plays the K♦ which promotes the Q and J. This means a club can be discarded on the J♦.

Board 6
 East Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ Q 4
 ♥ 7 6 5 3
 ♦ K J 8 5
 ♣ A J 8

♠ A 9
 ♥ K Q 9 2
 ♦ A 7 6 2
 ♣ Q 10 4

♠ 10 7 6 5 3 2
 ♥ J 8
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ K 7 2

♠ K J 8
 ♥ A 10 4
 ♦ 10 9 3
 ♣ 9 6 5 3

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2♠	All pass

Lead: ♦ 10.

West rebids 1 NT showing 15-17 HCP. East, knows partner has at least 2 spades so bids 2♠ as they have a fit. This is a weak bid, so West must pass as

Lead ♦ 10.

On the lead, Declarer plays low from West (dummy), hoping the K♦ is in North's hand and then Q♦ becomes a winner. Now play trumps.

Board 3
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

♠ 8 6 5
 ♥ A 10 5
 ♦ A 6 4
 ♣ K 5 4 3

♠ A J 4
 ♥ K 9 8 3
 ♦ K Q 8
 ♣ 10 9 6

♠ K 7
 ♥ Q J 7 4 2
 ♦ J 5 3 2
 ♣ A Q

♠ Q 10 9 3 2
 ♥ 6
 ♦ 10 9 7
 ♣ J 8 7 2

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All pass		Pass

Lead: ♠ 3

West opens 1 NT. East bids 3♥ showing exactly a 5-card suit and opening hand. This is forcing and West, with 4 hearts, knows they have very good a fit, so bids 4♥.

Lead of a small spade promises an honour.

Declarer should draw trumps, then lead a small club to the AQ in East's hand. When North plays low, play the Q♣ hoping the K♣ is in North's hand.

Board 7
 South Deals
 Both Vul

♠ A 10 7
 ♥ K 7 4
 ♦ Q 8 6
 ♣ A K 5 2

♠ 5 3 2
 ♥ A 8
 ♦ K 7 3 2
 ♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ Q 9 8 6
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ A 10 5 4
 ♣ J 10 7

♠ K J 4
 ♥ Q J 10 6 3 2
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ Q 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	1 NT	Pass	4♥

Lead: ♦ 2

North rebids 1 NT (15-17 HCP) and South bids 4♥ as they know they have a fit.

Lead is ♦ 2 from longest and strongest suit.

Declarer should draw trumps first, then play on clubs by starting with the honour in the short hand (Q♣). On the third round of clubs, discard a spade.

Board 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul

♠ 10 7
 ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ K 8 7 6 2
 ♣ A K 5

♠ 6 3 2
 ♥ K Q J 10 2
 ♦ J 9
 ♣ J 9 7

♠ K J 5
 ♥ 9 8 4 3
 ♦ Q 10 5
 ♣ Q 6 4

♠ A Q 9 8 4
 ♥ 7
 ♦ A 4 3
 ♣ 10 8 3 2

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2♠

Lead: ♥ K

South does not like being in notrumps due to their singleton, so bids 2♠ to be in a better contract. North must pass as South's bid is a weakness takeout.

After North wins the Ace♥, play a small spade towards the AQ♠. If East plays low, play the Q♠. When this holds, play the A♠ then target the diamonds. Start with A♦, then K♦ then a small diamond.

Board 8
 West Deals
 None Vul

♠ 10 4 3
 ♥ 10 4 3 2
 ♦ Q J
 ♣ 8 7 6 3

♠ K 7 2
 ♥ A 5
 ♦ 9 7 6
 ♣ A Q 9 5 4

♠ Q 9 8 6
 ♥ K J 8
 ♦ A K 5 2
 ♣ K J

♠ A J 5
 ♥ Q 9 7 6
 ♦ 10 8 4 3
 ♣ 10 2

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass

Lead: ♥ 2

East and West know they have enough for game.

Lead is a small heart from the longest and strongest suit.

Declarer wins ♥ K (keeping the ♥ A as an entry) then plays ♣ K and ♣ J.

Now declarer can cross to the ♥ A and play the rest of the club suit.