

Bridge Defence



Opening lead strategies:

- ♠ The opening lead should give a clear signal to your partner.
- ♠ Consider the bidding as well as your own hand
- ♠ If partner has bid a suit - lead that suit.
- ♠ Lead an unbid suit.
- ♠ Lead from your longest and strongest.
- ♠ Avoid leading away from tennaces if possible (e.g. ♥KJxx, Q10xx).
- ♠ If you have a very weak hand, try to guess your partner's suit, and lead that.
- ♠ **Never, ever, lead away from an ace against a suit contract.**

Standard leads:

- ♠ The top card from a sequence (KQJxx, QJ10xx, etc.) or "near sequence" (KQ10xx, QJ9xx, etc.).
- ♠ A from AKx... and K from AK (doubleton) - a safe lead.
- ♠ A singleton against a suit contract (but not if partner is weak).
- ♠ From 4 or more cards without a sequence, lead 4th highest (so partner can use the rule of 11).
- ♠ From a doubleton (especially against a suit contract), lead the top card.
- ♠ From 3 cards to an honour, lead the lowest.
- ♠ From 3 low cards, lead the middle.