

# Terry's notes on playing the cards

## Part One

1. These are my random thoughts, advice and tips on playing the cards and are not necessarily in the best order.
2. Honour cards are Aces, Kings, Queens and Jacks and traditionally shortened to A, K, Q, J. The Ten is also an honour but is treated as a small card most of the time in this note.
3. To be really effective
  - a. an Ace takes an opponent's King or Queen not J or lower
  - b. King " " " Queen or Jack not 10 or lower
  - c. Queen " " " Jack or 10 not 9 or lower
  - d. Jack " " " 10 or 9 not 8 or lower

4. Your utopian aim is to win 2 tricks in each suit, that is 8 tricks in total. If you can do this you will do very well at bridge.

5. Opening leads

If you hold 2 or more touching Honours, eg AK or AKQ or KQ or KQJ or QJ or QJ10, ALWAYS lead HIGHEST card NEVER lower or lowest.

This will help you attain ♠ 4.

6. If you are 2nd, 3rd, or 4th person to play IT IS THE OPPOSITE.

If you hold two or more touching honours, eg AK or AKQ or KQ or KQJ or QJ or QJ10, ALWAYS follow with the LOWEST card, eg Jack from KQJ.

This will help you attain ♠ 4.

It will help you place the cards, eg you lead ♠8 and your partner plays ♠Q, then you know they do not have ♠J but might have ♠K.

7. The rules in ♠ 5 and ♠ 6 also apply to lower sequences but are mainly for experts, ie 876 or 543.

Do not break these rules and never try to deceive the opponents as you are much more likely to deceive your partner who trusts you!

8. Opening leads or plays. NEVER underlead an Ace as the time that the opponent makes a singleton King you will be sick as a parrot.

If you hold Axx, Axxx or AJx and cannot think of anything better to lead, it is better to lead Ace and see what partner plays.

NEVER a lower card. Later on in the play of the hand you may break the rule.

9. Lead lowest from an unsupported honour, eg x from Kxx or Qxx hoping partner can help, but not from Axx (see ♣ 8). Other people are happy leading small from Jxx but I avoid leading this suit if at all possible.

Lead TOP OF NOTHING, ie holding 1096, 973, 652, 854, 1063 lead 10, 9, 6, 8, 10 respectively. Tell your partner you hold rubbish in that suit. Next time the suit is played, play down, ie from 973 play 9 then 7. If you play 9 followed by 3, then your partner will think you hold only two cards if the 2 has been seen.

10. As a general rule the second player plays low and third player high especially on the first two or three tricks. (Opponents lead a low spade and you are the second player with Axxx play low and leave it for partner) you will probably make your Ace later. See ♣ 3.
11. When your partner leads, play high to encourage and low to discourage with length showing overtones if possible. When the opponents lead, show length if you cannot win the trick.
12. When two rules conflict, eg ♣ 6 and ♣ 10, the more specific takes precedence: eg in 2nd position play 10 from QJ10 or Q from KQ.

There are many thousands of card combinations and these notes will start you out well. You will make mistakes (I remember a bad one in 1958).

These notes are mainly for whist players. but helpful for bridge.