

Logic on Defense

By World Champion & Master Teacher Donna Compton

In each of the examples, you are always **West** leading a spade, an unbid suit, against a suit contract. **North** is the dummy, South, the declarer. The card played to the first trick by each player is in bold face. Tip: Before answering each example problem, ask yourself:

“If declarer had the asked for missing honor, would the play have gone this way?”

#1 **North (dummy)**
 ♠ A 7 6

West (you)		East
♠ K 10 4 2		♠ 5

South
 ♠ 8

West leads the ♠2, North plays the ♠A, East plays the ♠5 and South follows with the ♠8. Who has the ♠Q and why?

#2 **North**
 ♠ A Q 5 3

West		East
♠ K 10 4 2		♠ 7

South
 ♠ 6

West leads the ♠2, North plays the ♠Q, East plays the ♠7 and South follows with the ♠6. Who has the **jack** and why?

#3 **North**
 ♠ A 10 5 3

West		East
♠ Q J 9 8		♠ 4

South
 ♠ 6

West leads the ♠Q, North plays the ♠A, East plays the ♠4 and South follows with the ♠6. Who has the **king** and why?

#4 **North**
 ♠ Q J 9 8 6

West		East
♠ A K 10 7 3		♠ 4

South
 ♠ 2

Who has the 5? If South plays the five, who has the 2?

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#5

	North	
	♠ K 4 3	
West		East
♠ Q 10 8 2		♠ 5
	South	
	♠ 6	

West leads the ♠2, North plays the ♠K, East plays the ♠5 and South follows with the ♠6. Who has the ♠J and why? Let's hope you know who has the ace!

#6

	North	
	♠ A 10 5 3	
West		East
♠ K 9 6		♠ 2
	South	
	♠ Q	

North leads the ♠3, East plays the ♠2, South plays the ♠Q, and West wins the ♠K. Who has the ♠J, and why?

#7

	North	
	♠ Q 10 5 3	
West		East
♠ K 9 6		♠ 7
	South	
	♠ A/4	

Spades are trumps and **South** is known to have **four** spades. South starts with the ♠A and East plays the ♠7. Next, South leads the ♠4. Who has the ♠J, and why?

#8

	North	
	♠ QJ109	
West		
♠ K842		

Hearts are trumps, dummy has a strong hand and neither West nor East have bid. Early in the play, South leads a low spade. Who has the ♠A and why?