

Defensive Tip

Exit Cards

Exit card is defined as a card to play (when you get the lead either on opening lead or somewhere before the last trick) that does not give declarer an undeserved trick.

Example:

RHO, South, opens 1♥ and the opponents get to 4♥. What does West lead?

♠10xx	♥AQ108	♦Qxx	♣KQx
♠AQ2	♥93	♦K43	♣AJ983
		♠J9x	♥xx
♠Kxxx		♥KJxxx	♦Ax
		♣xx	♦Jxxxx
♣10xx			

Partner is bust and likely has three small clubs. Lead the 9♥. Declarer draws trump with the King and Jack (oops), cashes the A♦ (oops) and plays a small ♦ to the Queen in dummy. You win the King and exit a diamond, declarer pitching a spade. Declarer now plays the K♣, you win the ace and with only spades and clubs left, you exit a club.

Leading from Kxx only works if partner has Axx or Qxx.

if declarer plays a small club to dummy, duck and give her the K♣. Declarer has transportation problems.

Cashing or leading from unsupported aces usually gives a way a trick.

It is not when in doubt lead trump. You have no doubt. You are leading trump to protect side suit holdings.

When you lead trump, you do not have:

- a singleton trump
- Qxx in trump
- 4 or longer trump holding
- a lead in another suit