

Daily Bridge Club

Test your card reading

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This week's deals have treated reading the cards: using clues from the bidding and defense to guide your play. Cover the East-West cards. You're declarer at four hearts after West opened one spade.

West leads the king of diamonds: deuce, three, four. He shifts to a trump. You draw trumps, finding West with three, and next lead the deuce of clubs: seven, queen, four. How do you continue?

The spade finesse will win, but you have three diamond losers and the ace of clubs. You need three club tricks so you can get a diamond discard from dummy.

THREE TRUMPS

West had five spades and three hearts and surely had three diamonds. If he held the doubleton A-K, he would have led the ace (and then he might have continued with the king at Trick Two).

Lead a second club from dummy and play low from your hand, expecting West's ace to fall. You win his spade shift with the queen and cash the K-J of clubs to pitch a diamond from dummy, holding your loss to two diamonds and a club.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠73 ♥KQJ3 ♦Q84 ♣KJ62. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and

he bids one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: You have almost enough strength to commit to game, especially if your partner is a sound opening bidder. Still, your lack of aces suggests caution whether you aim toward 3NT or a minor-suit game. Bid 2NT, invitational. If your hand were a bit stronger — Q 3, K Q 10 3, Q 8 4, K J 6 2 — you would bid 3NT.

West dealer

Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A Q 9
♥ A 10 8 2
♦ 7 5 2
♣ Q 5 3

WEST

♠ K J 8 5 2
♥ 9 5 4
♦ A K 10
♣ A 7

EAST

♠ 10 6 4
♥ 7 6
♦ J 9 6 3
♣ 10 9 8 4

SOUTH

♠ 7 3
♥ K Q J 3
♦ Q 8 4
♣ K J 6 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	All Pass	

Opening lead — ♦ K