

MINI UNIT D3 **Third Hand High** ♠♥♦♣

Guideline #3: "Third Hand Plays High" but only as high as is necessary

Tips

- When on lead we play top of sequence but, as third hand, we play lowest in sequence
- Do not decide on card **before** Dummy plays, a lower card might win
- Keeping an honour sitting over an honour is not easy to grasp but is important

Example 1 - The lead is ♥5 from West (your partner)

	♥ J 6 4	
	North (dummy)	
♥ 5 (led)		♥ Q T 2
West		East (you)
	?	
	South	

As East, you are the third player to contribute a card to the trick and will normally play your highest card if declarer calls for a low card from dummy. So if you held ♥Q82 you would play the queen – but now you should play ♥T because that is as high a card as you need to play. You can save the queen to cover the jack. If you held ♥QT9 you would play the 9 and partner would be able to infer that you held ♥10.

Further examples (A)

	♥ 9 6 4	
	North (dummy)	
♥ 5 (led)		♥ ?
West		East (you)

In the situation above which card should East play from each of the following?

- ♥ A K 3 play the K – "I might also have the ace but not the queen"
- ♥ A Q 3 play the A – "I do not have the king"
- ♥ Q J 7 play the J – "I might also have the queen but not the ten"
- ♥ Q J T play the T – "I might also have jack and queen but not the 8 (9 is in dummy)"
- ♥ K J T play the K – "I do not have the queen"

Further examples (B)

When there is an honour in dummy, try to retain a card to "cover" the honour.

♥ Q 6 4

North (dummy)

♥ 5 (led)

♥ ?

West

East (you)

Declarer calls for ♥4 from dummy. Which card should East play from each of the following?

- ♥ K J 3 play the J – obviously no need to play the king
- ♥ K J T play the T – lowest which will do the job
- ♥ A J 3 play the J – partner led a low card and may hold the king
- ♥ K T 3 play the T – keep the king to "cover" the queen
- ♥ A 9 3 play the A – third hand plays high

QUIZZES ♠♥♦♣ - Which card do you play?

1. Your partner leads ♦7, dummy plays ♦2 & you hold ♦QJ10.	2. Your partner leads ♦7, dummy plays ♦2 & you hold ♦KJ10.	3. Your partner leads ♦2, dummy plays ♦4 & you hold the ♦K105.
Dummy Partner ♦K82 You ♦7 ♦QJ10	Dummy Partner ♦A82 You ♦7 ♦KJ10	Dummy Partner ♦J74 You ♦Q982 ♦K105 ♦A63 Declarer
♦10. Partner will see that your 10 forced declarer's Ace.	♦K. You need to play 3rd hand high, as Declarer may win a trick with Q if you play the J.	♦10. You must keep your ♦K sitting over dummy's ♦J. Declarer will win first trick but your side will take the rest. If you play ♦K then declarer will make a 2nd trick with dummy's ♦J.

SET BOARDS

<p>Board 5</p> <p>North Deals</p> <p>N-S Vul</p> <p>♠ J 10 5 ♥ A J 5 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ J 9 6 2</p> <p>♠ K 3 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ K Q J 10 3 ♣ A 10 5</p> <p>♠ A Q 8 7 2 ♥ 8 6 3 ♦ 8 2 ♣ Q 8 3</p> <p>♠ 9 6 4 ♥ 10 9 4 ♦ A 9 5 4 ♣ K 7 4</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>2 ♠ 1 ♦ 1 ♠ 2 ♦</p> <p>3 NT</p> <p>Lead: ♠ 7</p>	<p>Theme: Low from equals, Rule of 11</p> <p>Lead: ♠7 4th highest</p> <p>Winners: 0♠ 0♥ 5♦ 2♣ = 7</p> <p>Play: West plays ♠10 (low from equals) & North wins with ♠K. North now needs a ♥ winner to make the contract so plays low ♦ to the ♦A & then leads a ♥. Should West play ♥A? YES</p> <p>West should win with the ♥A immediately & lead ♠J, top of doubleton, knowing North has no spades higher. Rule of 11 - ♠7 led & 3 cards higher in the South & West hands so North only had one card higher & it's already been played. E/W making 4 spades & ♥A</p>
<p>Board 4</p> <p>West Deals</p> <p>Both Vul</p> <p>♠ K 7 5 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ A 5 ♣ K Q J 10 5</p> <p>♠ A J 10 9 2 ♥ A K 5 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ 7 2</p> <p>♠ Q 8 4 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ K 9 6 2 ♣ 9 8 4</p> <p>♠ 6 3 ♥ 9 7 3 2 ♦ Q J 10 8 ♣ A 6 3</p> <p>West North East South</p> <p>1 ♣ 1 ♠ 1 NT All pass</p> <p>Lead: ♠ 6</p>	<p>Finessing Dummy</p> <p>Lead: ♠6 (top of doubleton in partner's suit)</p> <p>Winners: 0♠ 0♥ 2♦ 0♣ = 2 need to promote ♣s</p> <p>Play: North should play the ♠9 keeping West's ♠K covered with the ♠A. E/W will play on ♣s, South should win with ♣A & then play ♠3 which catches West's ♠K. South does not know North has the ♠A but highly likely with a spade overcall & missing K & Q.</p>

TEACHER'S NOTES

- Layout the cards below & show what happens when East plays the 10, & then again if play Q (promotes West's K)

K 9 7 6
8 5 3
Q 10 2

A J 4

- West leads 6. East plays the Q to force out the Ace. If East played the 10 then South wins with J.
- Finessing Dummy** - hard one! First play the cards with East playing the A with N/S winning 2 tricks. Next have East playing the 10 - South wins with the Q & can now finesse West's J (eg play the 9 to force the Ace). Lastly show what happens if correctly play the 8.

J 6 5 2
K 9 3
A 10 8

Q 7 4