








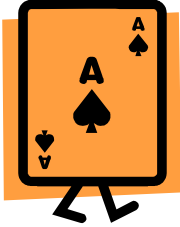
Lesson 3

High Card Point - Estimating Tricks

(Student pages)

True or False?

- T F** An Ace and King in the same suit can take 2 tricks.
- T F** An Ace and King in different suits always win 2 tricks.
- T F** You must discard if you are unable to follow suit.
- T F** When you win a trick, you should raise your card and boast.
- T F** A small card should be considered a useful card to keep and not discard if it is the only card protecting a King.
- T F** On average you should expect to have 6-7 red cards per 13-card hand.
- T F** If only 3 cards out of the 13 dealt to you are black, it means that the deck has been fixed.
- T F** Cards from completed tricks are placed face down in front of you, pointing toward the person who won the trick.
- T F** If you win a trick, then everyone must wait until you lead to the next trick before playing another card.
- T F** You play your card immediately after the person to your left








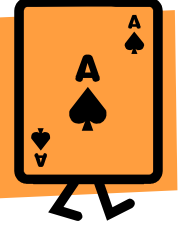
| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Jack | Queen | King | Ace |

Understanding which cards take tricks

Play one game of PBJ (4 people) and record which cards win tricks at your table.

| | <u>Aces</u> | <u>Kings</u> | <u>Queens</u> | <u>Jacks</u> | <u>Others</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Table 1 | | | | | |
| Table 2 | | | | | |
| Table 3 | | | | | |
| Table 4 | | | | | |
| Table 5 | | | | | |
| Table 6 | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | Skip |
| Total/Jacks | | | | | Skip |

1. Divide the total for Aces by the total for Jacks: _____
2. Divide the total for Kings by the total for Jacks: _____
3. Divide the total for Queens by the total for Jacks: _____
4. Naturally, when you divide the total for Jacks by itself you get ____
5. Complete the last row in the table

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Jack | Queen | King | Ace |

If the 10's and lower cards have no value in terms of HCP, how is it that they can take tricks?

Can you think of circumstances in which you hold Kings but take no tricks?

Is the HCP system 100% accurate in predicting how many tricks you can take? Why or why not?

Calculate the High Card Points in your Hand - the first step to estimate the number of tricks you can take

Aces, Kings, Queens, and Jacks are the highest ranking cards in each suit. They are special cards that have points assigned to them. These points are called HIGH CARD POINTS (HCP).

Example:

♠ A 8 7 3 4 HCP
 ♥ K Q 6 5 HCP (K=3 plus Q=2)
 ♦ 10 8 6 5 4 0 HCP
 ♣ J 1 HCP



10 HCP for this hand

How many HCP are in each of the following combinations of cards?

KQJ _____ AKJ _____ AQ74 _____ AJ _____ KJ _____
 KJ53 _____ A86432 _____ KQ3 _____ AQJ10987 _____ AKQJ _____

How many HCP are in a suit? In the deck?

If you divide the total number of HCP in a deck by the number of tricks in a game of Pre Bridge Jam, what is the result? Your answer should be very close to _____. This means that on average, 3 points are needed to win a trick. In other words, if you have 15 HCP, you could estimate that you will take $15/3 = 5$ tricks. If you had 7 HCP, you would take 2-3 tricks.

Later you will learn other factors to consider when estimating the trick-taking potential of your hand, but for now, let's see how well this system works.



Play PBJ (4 people) and record your results in the table:

| | Aces dealt | Kings dealt | Queens dealt | Jacks dealt | Total HCP for hand | Tricks won |
|--------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| Game 1 | | | | | | |
| Game 2 | | | | | | |
| Game 3 | | | | | | |

If you take the total HCP for the games you played and divide by the total number of tricks won, how close is the result to 3? Compare to other students' results.

If your result is not what you would expect, can you think of anything unusual during the play? For example, were there aces or kings that did not take tricks, or were there too many tricks taken by small cards?

