

Here is another common type.

AJ7  
6 <-----|----->K84

The 6 is led. Dummy plays the 7. Which card should East play ?

Calculation : subtract 6 from 11 = 5.

There are five cards higher than the 6 between the *dummy* and *ourselves* and *declarer*

We can see those five higher cards already (they are the 7 + J + A + 8 + K )

Therefore the declarer holds no card higher than the 6.

The correct card for East to play at trick one is the 8.

Try this one.

AQ6  
7 <-----|----->K94

The 7 is led and dummy ducks .

{ This is not such a bad idea by declarer by the way }.

You work out how many cards declarer has higher than the 7 and that answer is ZERO.

On the lead of the 7 you can play the .....4 !!! as you know partner's 7 must win.

So far the defenders have known exactly whether their side was going to win the trick.

Of course sometimes things will not be quite so clear cut.

e.g

K83  
6 <-----|----->A94

Here the lead reveals that the declarer does in fact have a card higher than the 7.

What it is nobody knows !!

Nonetheless we can see that to play the Ace on *fresh air* will not do us a lot of good.

It is better play to try the 9. Now probably the 9 will be headed by a card that declarer holds. So be it. We still have the Ace sat behind the King.

The full layout might be like this :

e.g

K83  
J10765 <-----|----->A94  
Q2

At trick 1 the declarer scored their Q. Well bully for them .

They won't make two tricks however and in time our Ace will beat the K in dummy.