

That use of the forcing defence (when a defender has 4 trumps) is a "pure" example of the strategy.

With 4 trumps if you can find a suit to "tap" declarer with { means, make them ruff } then you will be on your way to promoting an extra trick for yourself.

Sometimes the bidding suggests that declarer may be short in a suit

e.g	N	E	S	W
	1H	P	1S	P
	2C	P	3H	P
	4H	P	P	P

You are East and hold

76
K654
K7652
32

well you learnt at Nanny's knee not to lead away from a King but after all Nanny was never much of a bridge player if the truth be told.

If you *do* have the nerve to lead a small diamond *and* if partner *does* turn up with the Ace (or Queen) then repeated leads of this diamond suit may well force declarer to trump and in turn make an extra trump trick for yourself.

At least pencil this one in - with 4 trumps it is often a good idea to lead a long suit in the hope that repeated leads of that long suit will force declarer.

All the above were as I say "pure" forcing defences.

There is a secondary purpose in playing forcing defences however. It is effective not only when defenders have 4 trumps BUT also when defenders are loathe to open new suits. Something like this :-

	(dummy)
	J1098
	1096
	KJ4
(you)	AJ9
A	
AK873	
6532	
632	

You lead the Ace Hrts and declarer trumps. At trick two you are back on lead with the Ace spades. Now it is not clear what to lead. Clubs or diamonds *might* work well but equally they may ruin partner's holdings. Better is to play the safe game of leading a suit that you know declarer will trump. Such a defence is never helpful to declarer and we term the play a "safe exit".

Forcing defences are used when defenders have 4 trumps and hope to make an extra trump trick and also when the defenders are in doubts which suits to lead next.