

Can the contract be made ?

a)
(declarer) (dummy)
KQJx 10xxx contract 4Sp
KQJ xxx
xxx KQJ
Axx KQx

Can the contract be made ? The answer is Yes {there are just 3 Aces to lose}.

How did we know that ? { of course it was obvious} but in order to have a method that we can apply to all trump contracts we can say that what we did was to:-

- a) look at the spades and say :we hold the K + Q { but not the Ace} and so have 1 loser
- b) look at the hearts and say :we hold the K + Q { but not the Ace} and so have 1 loser
- c) look at the diamonds and say :we hold the K + Q { but not the Ace} and so have 1 loser }
- d) look at the clubs and say: we hold the A + K + Q} and so have no loser

Try this hand

b)
AKQxx Jxxx contract 4Sp
Axx xxx
KQJ xxx
AK xxx

Can this contract be made ?

Check each suit in turn for losers.

- a) in spades -we have the A + K + Q so no losers
- b)in hearts -we have the Ace -but not the K + Q -so 2 losers
- c)in diamonds -we have the KQJ but no Ace -so 1 loser
- d)in clubs -we have the A + K -so 0 loser

We have a total of 3 losers and so the contract can be made in straightforward fashion {draw trumps / establish winners }.

Another hand

c)
KQJx Axxx contract 4Sp
xxx xxx
AQx Kxxx
AKx xx

Checking each suit in turn for losers.

- a) in spades -we have the A +K + Q -so no loser
- b)in hearts -we do not have the A or K or Q and {as we have 3 hearts} we have 3 losers
- c)in diamonds -we have the AKQ -so 0 loser
- d)in clubs -we have the A + K (we dont have the Q but we can trump a Cl)-so no losers.

Again we *know* we can make the contract because we only have 3 losers.