

**“Map of ‘Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quizzes’ on
Bridge ‘Elimination Endplays’, ‘Squeeze Plays’,
‘Loser-on-Loser Plays’, ‘Unblocking Plays’,
‘Distribution Safety Plays’, and ‘Dummy Reversal Plays’”**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the “Esther Bridge Lessons,” CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the “Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quizzes”, CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz.html>

“Elimination Endplays”

In an “**Elimination Endplay**” the Declarer “strips” most of the cards from the Opponents’ Hands, and then plays an “*exit*” card that **forces** an Opponent into the lead, which in turn **forces** the Opponent on lead to lead a card that results in an “extra” Trick for the Declarer. Esther discussed the “Elimination Endplay” in her “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #142: **What is an ‘Elimination Endplay’ by Declarer, and How Does Declarer Perform an ‘Elimination Endplay’?**”

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/endplay.pdf>

Example

Declarer SOUTH is on lead after **8** Tricks in either a **NT** or a Spade contract. The **5** cards held in each of the **4** Hands are:

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¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers’ Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

	NORTH	
	S:	
	H: 4 2	
	D: 9	
	C: 9 5	
WEST		EAST
S:		S: 4 3
H: J 7		H: 5 3
D: K		D: 4
C: 9 4		C: 6 2
	SOUTH	
	S:	
	H: Q 9	
	D: 7	
	C: J 8	

On Trick #9 Declarer leads his Diamond 7 as his “exit” card and WEST “wins” Trick #9. WEST has now been **endplayed**. Whatever card WEST leads on Trick #10 (1) Declarer SOUTH will inevitably “win” and (2) will do so at the “*lowest*” possible level.

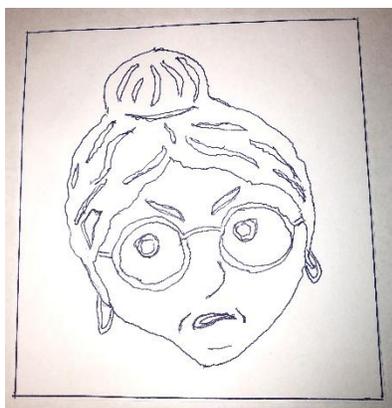
“Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quizzes” on the “Elimination Endplay”

Esther BBO Bridge

“Pop” Quiz Master Lesson URL

- #229 Lev 3 #C-30
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0229_q.pdf
- #232 Lev 3 #C-28
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0232_q.pdf
- #240 Lev 3 #A-06
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0240_q.pdf
- #246 Lev 3 #D-34
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0246_q.pdf
- #249 Lev 4 #A-01
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0249_q.pdf
- #261 Lev 4 #B-05
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0261_q.pdf
- #271 Lev 4 #B-22
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0271_q.pdf
- #279 Lev 4 #C-13
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0279_q.pdf

- #288 Lev 4 #C-05
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0288_q.pdf
- #290 Lev 5 #C-05
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0291_q.pdf
 If 1 Opponent holds most of the *Opponents' Trump Cards*, sometimes an “**Endplay**” can be very helpful.
- #291 Lev 5 #C-05
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0291_q.pdf
- #299 Lev 5 #A-21
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0299_q.pdf
- #302 Lev 5 #A-32
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0302_q.pdf
- #303 Lev 5 #B-01
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0303_q.pdf
- #310 Lev 5 #B-17
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0310_q.pdf



Esther says...

“An ‘**Elimination Endplay**’ can help you as Declarer when (1) 1 Opponent holds *most of the Opponents’ HCPs*, such as in ‘Esther ‘Pop’ Quiz’ #302:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0302_q.pdf

or (2) 1 Opponent holds a ‘*Trump Stack*’ against you, such as in ‘Esther ‘Pop’ Quiz’ #291’:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0291_q.pdf”

Esther *also* has posted “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #149: **As Declarer in a Suit Contract Running a ‘*Partial Elimination Endplay*’**”:

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/Part_elim.pdf

And Esther has now posted on her website “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #164: **Executing an ‘*Elimination Endplay*’ in a Suit Contract Along With Some Playful Discards of ‘Losers’**”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/Elimination.pdf>

And Esther has posted “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #163: **When Both Opponents Were Silent Throughout the Auction But 1 Opponent During Play Shows a Trump Void Thus Showing That His Partner Holds a ‘*Trump*’**

Stack'...: https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/Trp_Stack.pdf

Note. Esther also *very much likes* the 2024 BBO Masterclass Endplays Video:
<https://news.bridgebase.com/2024/08/02/masterclass-3-endplays/>

“Squeeze Plays”

In a “Squeeze Play” the Declarer does not surrender the lead but instead plays in such a way that Opponents are *forced* to make discard decisions *any* one of which inevitably “promotes” “winners” for the Declarer. Esther discussed the “Squeeze Plays” in her “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #142: “How as Declarer to Execute an Endplay ‘Squeeze’”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/squeeze.pdf>

Example

Here are the Hands of Declarer NORTH, Dummy, and the “Squeezee” WEST after the Declarer NORTH has already “Rectified the Count” when playing a NT contract and all of the Opponents’ “Idle Cards” have been eliminated from further play:

	Declarer	
	NORTH	
	S: K	
	H: A Q	
	D: --	
	C: --	
	“Squeezee”	
	WEST	
	S: A	
	H: K T	
	D: --	
	C: --	
	Dummy	
	SOUTH	
	S: 7	
	H: 5	
	D: A	
	C: --	

At this point in play:

1. All 3 of WEST’s remaining cards are “Busy Cards”.

2. WEST is the “*Squeezee*”.
3. NORTH holds 1 “*Threat Card*”: the Spade King.
4. Declarer NORTH leads the Dummy SOUTH’s Diamond Ace, which is the “*Squeeze Card*”.
5. WEST holding no remaining Diamonds **must** *discard* one of his 3 “*Busy Cards*”.
6. If WEST *discards* his Spade Ace, then NORTH in his Hand will discard his Heart Queen, leaving Declarer NORTH holding the “winner” Heart Ace (which WEST must lead to next), and the “winner” Spade King that has been “promoted” by forcing WEST to make an impossible discard decision.
7. If instead WEST discards either his Heart Ten, NORTH will discard Declarer’s Spade King, leaving Declarer NORTH holding the “winner” Heart Ace, and the “winner” Heart Queen, which has been “promoted” by forcing WEST to make an impossible discard decision.

“Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quizzes” on the “Squeeze Play”

Esther	BBO Bridge	
“Pop” Quiz	Master Lesson	URL
#248	Lev 3 #D-30	https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0248_q.pdf
#262	Lev 4 #B-09	https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0262_q.pdf
#280	Lev 4 #C-15	https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0280_q.pdf
#301	Lev 5 #A-27	https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0301_q.pdf
#314	Lev 5 #B-26	https://www.esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0314_q.pdf
#314	Lev 5 #C-30	https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0322_q.pdf Learn the “ <i>3-Suit Squeeze Endplay</i> ”
#324	Lev 5 #B-12	https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0322_q.pdf Learn the “ <i>2-Opponent Squeeze Endplay</i> ”

Note. Esther also *very much likes* the 2024 BBO Masterclass Squeeze Plays Video:
<https://news.bridgebase.com/2024/05/08/masterclass-2-squeeze-plays/>

And Esther *very much likes* the Paul Tobias “Bridge Center of Austin” lesson, “Bridge Squeezes: Easier and More Common Than You Think”:

<https://austinbridge.org/sbruce/lecture/BridgeSqueezes.pdf>

“Winkle Plays”

In a “**Winkle Play**”, in the December 2, 1985 words of New York Time columnist of 41 years, Alan Truscott, the Declarer forces a Defender to “...choose between [1] being endplayed and [2] allowing a ‘useless’ card in the dummy to come back to life” (p. 17). So, a “**Winkle Play**” involves Defender inescapably choosing between being “**endplayed**” versus (2) being “**squeezed**”. The “Esther Dialogue Lesson #165: **As Bridge Declarer Do You Know How to Execute a ‘Winkle Endplay’?**” provides more detail on the “**Winkle**”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/winkle.pdf>

“Loser-on-Loser’ Plays”

The Declarer’s primary mission when playing a Suit contract is to identify and “dump” his “losers”. There are various ways that Declarer can fulfill his duties. For example, he can “sluff” a “loser” on a “winner” drawn from the other Hand that Declarer controls. Or Declarer can sluff a “loser” on a card that Opponents will in any case *inevitably* “win”.

In a “**Loser-on-Loser’ Play**” the Declarer does surrender the lead by leading a “certain” “loser” and does so to “dump” one of his “losers” in either the Dummy or in his own “closed” (hidden) Hand. Esther discussed the “**Loser-on-Loser’ Play**” in her “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #107: “**As Declarer, ‘Dumping’ Your Loser(s) Using a ‘Loser-on-a-Loser’ Strategy**”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/loser.pdf>

“Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quizzes” on the “Loser-on-Loser’ Play”

Esther BBO Bridge
“Pop” Quiz Master Lesson URL

#266 Lev 3 #D-30

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0266 q.pdf>

#255 Lev 4 #B-09

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0255 q.pdf>

- #253 Lev 3 #D-30
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0253_q.pdf
- #220 Lev 3 #D-30
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0220_q.pdf
- #211 Lev 4 #B-09
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0211_q.pdf

“‘Unblocking’ Plays”

An “*unblocking*” play occurs when a bridge player intentionally “dumps” “high” cards in his Hand in order to “promote” “lower” cards in either Partner’s Hand or the Dummy. For example, let’s say when playing a NT contract you and Dummy hold:

YOU	Dummy
♠ A K 3	♠ Q J T 9 8

Let’s say further that you hold *no* entry into the Dummy except in Spades. Obviously, if you had the opportunity to sluff your Spade A,K it would be worthwhile to do so because you would be “trading” 2 “winning” Tricks for 5 “winning” Tricks”. Doing so “*unblocks*” the “winners” in the Dummy.

The necessity of “unblocking” can occur on Defense, as explained in “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #26: “**Esther Comments About *Unblocking Long Suits Against No Trump Contracts*”:**

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/unblock.pdf>

But “*unblocking*” on Offence can also be vitally important as detailed in the following “Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quizzes” using Boards from the “**BBO Bridge Master**” website.

“Esther Bridge ‘Pop’ Quizzes” on the “‘Unblocking’ Play”

- Esther BBO Bridge
 “Pop” Quiz Master Lesson URL
- #277 Lev 4 #C-07
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0277_q.pdf
It may even be necessary to sluff a King!

- #259 Lev 4 #B-03
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0259_q.pdf
It may even be necessary to sluff a King!
- #256 Lev 4 #A-31
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0256_q.pdf
It may even be necessary to sluff A,K,Q!
- #242 Lev 3 #D-10
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0242_q.pdf
- #237 Lev 3 #D-01
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0237_q.pdf
- #225 Lev 3 #C-04
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0225_q.pdf
- #125 Lev 2 #D-13
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0125_q.pdf
- #124 Lev 2 #C-27
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0124_q.pdf
- #120 Lev 2 #C-09
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0120_q.pdf

“*Distribution Safety*’ Plays”

In some cases a Declarer may wish to use a “Line of Play” that assumes a very unlikely Suit “split” often when the Suit is the Trump Suit in order to “protect” against an unlikely but potentially disastrous “split”. The “*Distribution Safety Play*” was explained in “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #91: “**Bridge ‘Distribution Safety Play’: As Declarer Is It Better to Play the *Most Likely Split as Certain*, or to Play the *Least Likely Split as Possible?*”:**

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/safety.pdf>

A bridge “**Distribution Safety Play**” is useful when you (1) want to “protect” “making” your contract against a bad Suit “split” at the *sacrifice* of (2) possibly foregoing Overtricks. The *competition format* is one thing that affects the importance of safely making your contract as against making Overtricks. Overtricks are more important when you are playing Swiss Teams events scored in International Match Points (IMPs) rather than Pairs Matchpoints. In Matchpoint-scored events the *magnitude* of how much better you scored does not matter as much as the ranking of

your Pair,² while the exact opposite is true in IMP-scored competitions.³ For more information on these two scoring systems see “**How Duplicate Pairs Bridge is Scored in Matchpoints**”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/scoring.pdf>

and “**How Duplicate Swiss Teams Bridge is Scored in IMPs**”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/swiss.pdf>.

- #226 Lev 3 #C-01
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0226_q.pdf
- #227 Lev 3 #C-18
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0227_q.pdf
- #293 Lev 5 #A-11
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0293_q.pdf

“*Dummy Reversal*” Plays”

Frequently a Declarer playing a Suit contract has fewer Trump cards in the Dummy than in his own “closed” Hand. In these situations, it is usually best if possible to ruff in the Dummy before “drawing” all the Trump cards. However, in some situations it is better for the Declarer to instead exhaust Trump cards in his “closed” Hand while preserving Trump cards in the Dummy. When the Declarer plays the

² In *Pairs* Matchpoint scoring if your Pair had the highest positive (or the least negative) Bridge Score among all the Pairs sitting in the same direction as you, your Pair will earn the highest Matchpoints on the Board. If your N/S Pair scored **+670** and the 2nd highest N/S Pair scored **+640** your Pair earned the “top” Board score and a ranking of **#1**. If your Pair scored **+1,500** and the 2nd highest N/S Pair scored **+430** your Pair earned the “top” Board score and a ranking of **#1**. The magnitude of the gap (**30** versus **1,070**) between Pair #1’s Bridge Score and Pair #2’s Bridge Score is *irrelevant*, and a “top” Board is a “top” Board regardless of the magnitude of the Bridge Score gap.

³ In *Swiss Teams* if your Team earned the *best* Bridge Score on a Board, which is then converted to IMPs, and your Team scored the *most* IMPs on the Board, **+25** or **+5**, at the end of the competition all the Team’s IMPs (not rankings) across all the Boards are summed to determine the winning Team. This means that a single Board IMP score can either “ruin” or “make” your Team’s day, so you want to play more “safely” in Team events!

latter way this called a “*Dummy Reversal Play*”.⁴ Esther discusses this bridge play in her “Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #146: **Running a ‘*Dummy Reversal*’ When Playing a Suit Contract as Declarer--An Exception to the General Rule About Playing Trump Cards**”:

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/DummyRev.pdf>

As Steve Becker wrote in his web article, “Recognizing a Dummy Reversal”⁵:

“Probably the most difficult play in bridge to recognize is the [D]ummy [R]eversal. This is primarily because it involves doing the *direct opposite* of what a [D]eclarer *normally* does during the play of a [S]uit contract” which is to prefer ruffing the Partnership’s Hand that is “shortest” in Trump cards. [italics added]

#285 Lev 4 #D-07

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0285_q.pdf

#311 Lev 5 #B-18

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0311_q.pdf

Esther *also* notes that **BBO Bridge Master** Lesson Level 4 **A-07** covers the “*Dummy Reversal*” play. You can use BBO to practice executing the play and you can do *repeatedly* and for *free*!

⁴ See Larry Cohen’s article, “Think in Reverse”, on his bridge website:

<https://new.larryco.com/bridge-articles/think-in-reverse>

⁵ See: <http://youth.worldbridge.org/recognizing-a-dummy-reversal-by-steve-becker/>