

Defence

Passive or Active (attacking)?

Passive Defence

Defence that is least likely to help declarer make extra tricks

Often chosen when

- Opponents have bid weakly and ended in a partscore or in game.
- A trump lead or a suit with no honours can be a suitable passive lead
- Try to avoid leading away from your honours
- More often chosen vs suit contracts than against NT e.g. Avoid leading from AQ10xx
- More likely to be a good choice in Duplicate (pairs) scoring as you do not want to give declarer any overtricks

Active (or Attacking) Defence

- Where the bidding suggests that there is a long strong suit where declarer may be able to take lots of tricks.
- Or where you can see this in dummy, after the opening lead
- You need to take your tricks or they will disappear
- More often chosen against NT e.g. 4th highest from AQ10xx
- More likely to be a good choice in forms of bridge scoring where overtricks do not matter so much (Rubber, Chicago, Teams).

Top of a Sequence

- Leads like **K**QJxx or **Q**J10xx are both **attacking** and **safe**. They are unlikely to help declarer make any extra tricks, while at the same time helping the defence to establish some tricks.

Examples of WEAK bidding sequences

West	East
1NT	2NT
Pass	

West	East
1♥	2♥
Pass	

West	East
1NT	2NT
3NT	Pass

West	East
1♥	2♥
3♥	Pass

West	East
1♣	1♥
1NT	Pass

West	East
1♥	2♥
3♥	4♥

Examples of STRONG bidding sequences

West	East
1♠	2♣ (10+)
3♠ (16-18)	4♠
Pass	

West	East
1♣ (12+)	2♥ (16+)
3♥	4♥
Pass	

Many Other Bidding Sequences could be fairly weak or strong

West	East
1NT	3NT
Pass	

West	East
1♠	3♠
4♠	Pass

West	East
2♥ (weak)	4♥
Pass	

West	East
1♠	2♣
2♠	4♠
Pass	