Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10 9 5 2
♥ J 7 2
♦ J
♣ A Q 4 2

♠ Q 7 4
♥ 6
♦ K 10 8 5 3 2
♣ 9 7 6

N
W E
S

♠ 8 6
♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ A Q 9 7 6
♣ 8 5

12
5 6
17

♠ K J 3
♥ A K Q 9 8
♦ 4
♣ K J 10 3

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
All pass			

6 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ 7

With 3-card support, North should raise hearts. With 17 points, good trumps, and good controls in every side suit opposite an opening hand, South can go straight to 4 NT (RKCB). On hearing that North has two keycards, South can bid the slam.

West leads the ♣ 7. Noting that West is short in trumps, declarer should play that hand for the ♠ Q.

Play theme: Find the Queen.

EBED Gold Lesson 1: Bidding Slams

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 9
♥ 9 6 5 3 2
♦ J 10 9 3
♣ Q 6 5

♠ Q J 5 4 2
♥ K 4
♦ A 8 6
♣ K J 2

N
W E
S

♠ A K 10 8
♥ A 7
♦ Q 7
♣ A 10 9 8 3

3
14 17
6

♠ 7 6 3
♥ Q J 10 8
♦ K 5 4 2
♣ 7 4

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
6 ♠	All pass		

6 ♠ by West
Lead: ♦ J

After East makes a 3 ♠ rebid showing about 16-18 points, West, with 14 points, a five-card trump suit and controls in every suit, can bid 4 NT (RKCB). When East bids 5 ♣, this should logically be showing four keycards (not one) given that East has shown a strong hand in the bidding. While all five keycards are accounted for, West knows the two hands have only about 31 points and is content to be in 6 ♠.

After drawing trumps, declarer must find the ♣ Q. North is short in trumps and therefore more likely to hold this card.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ K J 10 ♥ A K Q 5 4 3 ♦ 8 ♣ A K Q	
♠ 5 2 ♥ 8 7 ♦ K 6 5 4 3 ♣ 8 7 6 2	N W E S	♠ Q 8 7 6 4 ♥ 2 ♦ 10 9 7 ♣ J 10 9 3
22 **3 3** **12**	♠ A 9 3 ♥ J 10 9 6 ♦ A Q J 2 ♣ 5 4	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
			1 ♦
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♥
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♥
All pass			

6 ♥ by North
Lead: ♣ J

After South raises hearts, North is strong enough to go straight to 4 NT (RKCB) with 22 points, good trumps, and good controls in every side suit. On hearing South has two keycards, North bids 5 NT to investigate a grand. With no side king, South returns to 6 of their trump suit (6 ♥) which becomes the final contract.

East lead the ♣ J. North draws trumps, noting East's shortage. This suggests that East is more likely to hold the ♠ Q, and North should finesse accordingly to make an overtrick.

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Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

	♠ 9 ♥ Q 8 7 4 ♦ J 10 9 8 2 ♣ 9 8 4	
♠ A J 7 5 4 ♥ K J 10 ♦ Q 7 ♣ A K Q	N W E S	♠ K 10 8 3 2 ♥ A 9 3 ♦ 5 4 ♣ J 3 2
3 **20 8** **9**	♠ Q 6 ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ A K 6 3 ♣ 10 7 6 5	

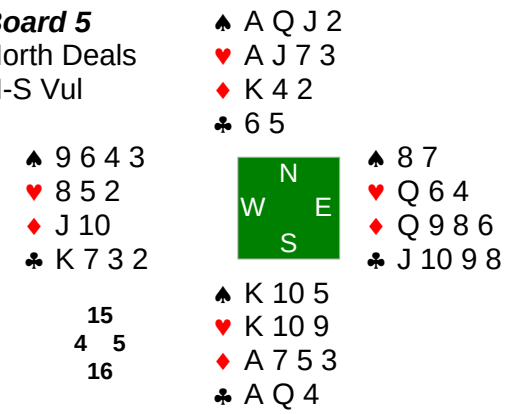
West	*North*	*East*	*South*
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
4 ♠	All pass		

4 ♠ by West
Lead: ♦ J

When East shows a 5-card spade suit and enough values for game, West is naturally interested in a spade slam. Over 3 NT, East should cuebid 4 ♣, indicating interest in a spade slam (4 ♣ here cannot be natural). When East cuebids 4 ♥ (denying a diamond control), West is worried that there might be two diamond losers and correctly stops in game.

The defence cash the ♦ A and ♦ K. After finding that North has a singleton trump, declarer should play North for the ♥ Q to make an overtrick.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul



West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	1 NT	Pass	4 NT
All pass			

4 NT by North
Lead: ♣ J

Holding 16 points and no four-card or longer majors, South should bid 4 NT. This is a Quantitative invite to slam and not RKCB. With a minimum, North knows the partnership holds only 31 points (while 33 points are needed for 6 NT). Pass is clear.

On playing the spades, declarer discovers that East is short in spades and therefore more likely to have the ♥ Q.

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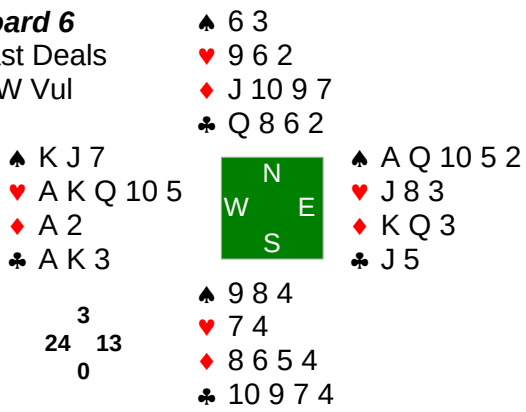
Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul



West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		1 ♠	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
7 NT	All pass		

7 NT by West
Lead: ♦ J

West is amazed that partner has opened the bidding, but should start with a simple 2 ♥ (natural and game-forcing). East should raise hearts as 2 ♥ showed a five-card suit. West, with the stronger hand, should take control of the auction by bidding 4 NT (RKCB). Launching into RKCB is fine when West has controls in every suit and simply needs to know about keycards in order to place the contract.

After learning that the partnership holds all five keycards, West should follow with 5 NT asking about side-suit Kings. East shows the ♦ K, which means the partnership has all three side Kings as well. West should now bid 7 NT and not 7 ♥, as it is possible that the heart suit will break badly and 7 NT will still make given that the two hands hold at least a combined 36 points.

North has a safe lead in the ♦ J.