

Cover an Honor with an Honor

As a defender, you often have to decide whether to cover an honor with an honor. The answer to this question is: Yes, you should cover the honor if doing so may promote a lower card for you or partner.

Consider this situation where the queen is led from the dummy:

♠ Q 4 3

Partner
♠ 6 2

N	
W	E
S	

You
♠ K 10 9

♠ A J 8 7 5

Should you cover the queen with your king? Yes, you should cover with your king in order to promote your ten to a third-round trick. If you don't cover, you won't win a single trick.

What if you can't see the ten or the nine? Should you still cover the queen with the king?

♠ Q 7 3

Partner
♠ 10 6 3

N	
W	E
S	

You
♠ K 5 4

♠ A J 9 8

Yes, because partner might have the ten or the nine. If you cover the queen with the king, partner's ten eventually takes a trick.

If you can't promote anything for yourself and partner can't possibly have sufficient length to get a promotion, then don't cover the honor. In this example, the bidding indicates that declarer has six-card suit. When the jack is led from dummy, should you cover with the queen?

♠ J 7 3

Partner
♠ ?

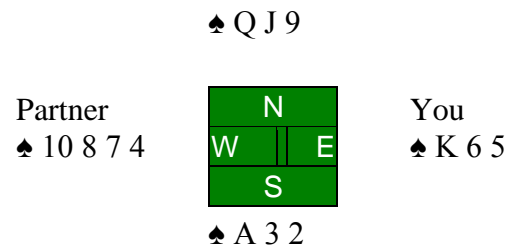
N	
W	E
S	

You
♠ Q 5 2

♠ ??????

No, don't cover. You have nothing to promote and your partner has a singleton. Furthermore, when declarer's side has a nine card combined holding, declarer may be planning to go up with the ace and king to try to drop the queen.

If dummy has a sequence of equal honors, cover the last one in the sequence.



If the queen is led from dummy, play low. If you cover, declarer wins and then leads to the nine, finessing you partner out of her ten. The correct play is to cover the jack on the next round. Your partner's ten will now be promoted.