



DealTales

Find the Winning Move

A SPARK & ANVIL STRATEGY BOOK

DealTales — Read Your Hand

A Story Time–style strategy puzzle workbook — every position is drawn from the app's shipped, engine-verified tactics bank. No position is made up.

About this book

Part of the **Dealtales** Companion Book Program. Free to download and print under **CC BY-NC-SA 4.0**. Every puzzle is a real, engine-verified tactic — solve it, then turn the page to check your move and the reason it works.

Contents

1. Count the Points
2. Count the Suit
3. Follow Suit

How to use this book

This book has three kinds of bridge hand puzzle:

1. **Count the points** — Ace 4, King 3, Queen 2, Jack 1. Add the honours in the hand.
2. **Count the suit** — how many cards the hand holds in the named suit.
3. **Follow suit** — after a card is LED, which of your cards are legal to play? (You MUST follow the led suit if you can.)
Say your answer, then turn the page to check it and read *why*.

Count the Points

Puzzle 1

How many high-card points are in this hand?

Your hand — count the high-card points



Puzzle 1 — Answer

Your hand — count the high-card points

A♠

K♠

Q♠

5♠

A♥

7♥

4♥

K♦

Q♦

3♦

8♣

6♣

2♣

18 high-card points (highlighted honours: A=4 · K=3 · Q=2 · J=1).

This hand has 18 high-card points.

Ace 4, King 3, Queen 2, Jack 1 — count the honours and they total 18.

Puzzle 2

How many high-card points are in this hand?

Your hand — count the high-card points



Puzzle 2 — Answer



This hand has 17 high-card points.

Ace 4, King 3, Queen 2, Jack 1 — count the honours and they total 17.

Puzzle 3

How many high-card points are in this hand?

Your hand — count the high-card points



Puzzle 3 — Answer



This hand has 14 high-card points.

Ace 4, King 3, Queen 2, Jack 1 — count the honours and they total 14.

Puzzle 4

How many high-card points are in this hand?

Your hand — count the high-card points



Puzzle 4 — Answer

Your hand — count the high-card points

A♠

10♠

6♠

2♠

Q♥

8♥

5♥

J♦

9♦

4♦

K♣

Q♣

3♣

12 high-card points (highlighted honours: A=4 · K=3 · Q=2 · J=1).

This hand has 12 high-card points.

Ace 4, King 3, Queen 2, Jack 1 — count the honours and they total 12.

Count the Suit

Puzzle 5

How many hearts does this hand hold?

Your hand — count the suit

A♠

K♠

Q♠

5♠

A♥

7♥

4♥

K♦

Q♦

3♦

8♣

6♣

2♣

Puzzle 5 — Answer

Your hand — count the suit

A♠

K♠

Q♠

5♠

A♥

7♥

4♥

K♦

Q♦

3♦

8♣

6♣

2♣

3 card(s) in the named suit (highlighted).

This hand holds 3 card(s) in that suit (highlighted).

Count the hearts — there are 3. Reading your shape tells you where your tricks and fits are.

Puzzle 6

How many spades does this hand hold?

Your hand — count the suit



Puzzle 6 — Answer

Your hand — count the suit

K

♠

J

♠

8

♠

A

♥

Q

♥

9

♥

3

♥

A

♦

7

♦

2

♦

K

♣

4

♣

3

♣

3 card(s) in the named suit (highlighted).

This hand holds 3 card(s) in that suit (highlighted).

Count the spades — there are 3. Reading your shape tells you where your tricks and fits are.

Puzzle 7

How many diamonds does this hand hold?

Your hand — count the suit



Puzzle 7 — Answer



3 card(s) in the named suit (highlighted).

This hand holds 3 card(s) in that suit (highlighted).

Count the diamonds — there are 3. Reading your shape tells you where your tricks and fits are.

Puzzle 8

How many clubs does this hand hold?

Your hand — count the suit

A♠

10♠

6♠

2♠

Q♥

8♥

5♥

J♦

9♦

4♦

K♣

Q♣

3♣

Puzzle 8 — Answer

Your hand — count the suit

A♠

10♠

6♠

2♠

Q♥

8♥

5♥

J♦

9♦

4♦

K♣

Q♣

3♣

3 card(s) in the named suit (highlighted).

This hand holds 3 card(s) in that suit (highlighted).

Count the clubs — there are 3. Reading your shape tells you where your tricks and fits are.

Follow Suit

Puzzle 9

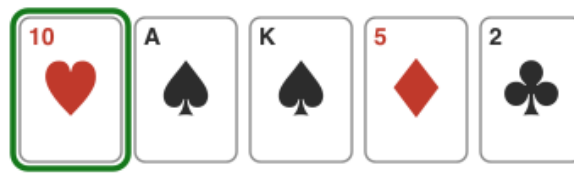
Hearts are led. You must follow suit if you can — which is your only legal play?

Your hand — ♥ H is led



Puzzle 9 — Answer

Your hand — ♥ H is led



The highlighted card is the only legal play (follow the led suit).

Only the highlighted card is legal — you must follow the suit that was led.

You hold one hearts, so you must play it — following suit comes before anything else.

Puzzle 10

Spades are led. You must follow suit if you can — which is your only legal play?

Your hand — ♠ S is led



Puzzle 10 — Answer

Your hand — ♠ S is led



The highlighted card is the only legal play (follow the led suit).

Only the highlighted card is legal — you must follow the suit that was led.

You hold one spades, so you must play it — following suit comes before anything else.

Puzzle 11

Diamonds are led. You must follow suit if you can — which is your only legal play?

Your hand — ♦ D is led



Puzzle 11 — Answer



The highlighted card is the only legal play (follow the led suit).

Only the highlighted card is legal — you must follow the suit that was led.

You hold one diamonds, so you must play it — following suit comes before anything else.

Puzzle 12

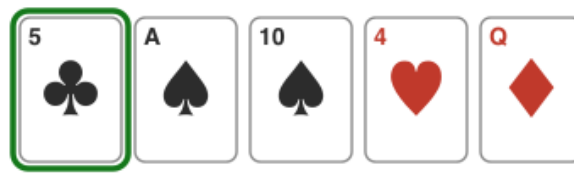
Clubs are led. You must follow suit if you can — which is your only legal play?

Your hand — ♣ C is led



Puzzle 12 — Answer

Your hand — ♣ C is led



The highlighted card is the only legal play (follow the led suit).

Only the highlighted card is legal — you must follow the suit that was led.

You hold one clubs, so you must play it — following suit comes before anything else.

Keep playing

Play the live tactics trainer at spark-and-anvil.org/play/dealtales and read the cast's strategy stories at spark-and-anvil.org/cast/dealtales.