

A sacrifice is bid in the hope that the penalty (doubled, of course) will be less than the value gained by the opponents in their contract. The best case is that the opponents misjudge their level and bid on to a dangerous level.

At equal vulnerability, you think that the opponents will bid and make a game. If you can be down two, you yield 300 or 500, less than 420 or 620. The sacrificer hopes both to pay less than the value of their game *and* that the field will bid and make game. Avoid the dreaded “phantom” sacrifice.

When does your hand suggest a sacrifice?

- ♣ big trump fit (Sacrifices in notrump are unlikely to succeed.)
- ♣ Singleton in their suit
- ♣ You have an idea of Partner’s trick-taking capability (Michaels or unusual notrump)

When does your hand suggest defending?

- 👁 short weak trump suit
- 👁 honors in their suit
- 👁 random scattered Queens and Jacks that might defeat their game contract.

When does the vulnerability suggest a sacrifice?

- ♣ Favorable
- = Equal
- 👁 Unfavorable

When does their auction suggest a sacrifice?

- ♣ It seems likely that other players with their cards will bid the game.
- ♣ You sacrifice directly before they describe their hands.
- ♣ You give them the last guess. Do not inch your way into a sacrifice.

SACRIFICING BEFORE THE OPPONENTS HAVE FOUND FIT AND LEVEL:

Partner opens “1 Heart” and you have five-card trump support and a singleton:

♠x ♥Qxxxx ♦QJxx ♣xxx Leap to “4 Hearts”.

SACRIFICING AFTER THE OPPONENTS HAVE BID GAME:

A sacrifice may occur when both sides have found a fit, and the bidding indicates that the opponents can make a game or slam contract. Partner opens “2 Spades”, the next player bids “4 Hearts”, and you have four-card trump support and a singleton:

♠Qxxx ♥x ♦QJxxx ♣xxx Bid “4 Spades”.

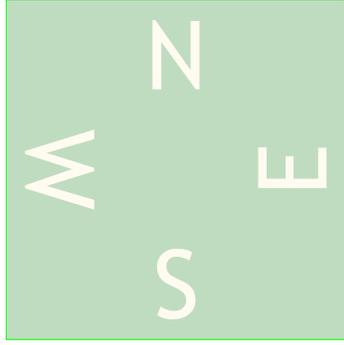
Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♣ A Q 2
 ♦ A
 ♥ K Q J 8 3 2
 ♠ 8 7 3

♠ A K Q 9 6 5
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K Q J
 ♣ J 9 8



♠ 10 4 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 10 8 6 5 2
 ♣ K 7 5 4

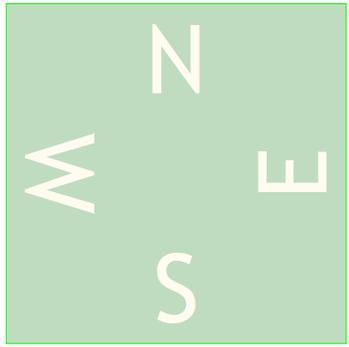
♠ J
 ♥ A 9 7 6 4
 ♦ 9 7 4 3
 ♣ 10 9 3

Deal 1
 North Deals
 None Vul

Deal 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

♣ K J 9 7
 ♦ 10 7
 ♥ Q 9 8
 ♠ A J 8 7

♠ 3
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ A Q J 3 2
 ♣ Q 10 8 5 4



♠ 5 4 2
 ♥ A 5 4 2
 ♦ K 6 5 4
 ♣ 3 2

♠ K Q 10 9 6
 ♥ K J 10 7
 ♦ 9 8
 ♣ 9 A

Deal 2
 East Deals
 N-S Vul

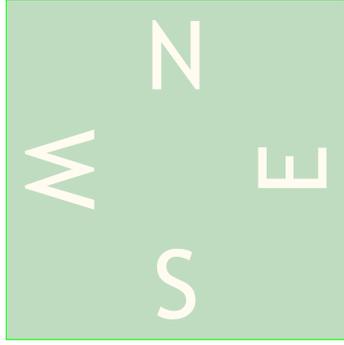
Deal 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♣	3 2
♦	2
♥	K J 10 9 7
♠	K J 9 7 6

♠	2
♥	4 3
♦	A K Q 4
♣	K Q 10 8 7 6



♠	A Q 4
♥	A 2
♦	7 6 5 3
♣	J 9 5 4

♠	10 8 5 3
♥	Q 8 6 5
♦	J 10 9 8
♣	A

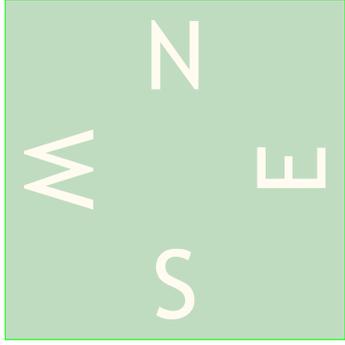
Deal 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

Deal 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♣ 10 4
 ♦ K Q 8 3
 ♥ A Q J 2
 ♠ 5 4 2



♠ A 9 8 7
 ♥ 4
 ♦ J 9 7 6
 ♣ Q 7 5 3

♠ K Q 10 6 3
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ A 9 8 6

♠ J
 ♥ K 10 9 8 7 5
 ♦ A 10 4
 ♣ K J 2

Deal 4
 West Deals
 Both Vul