

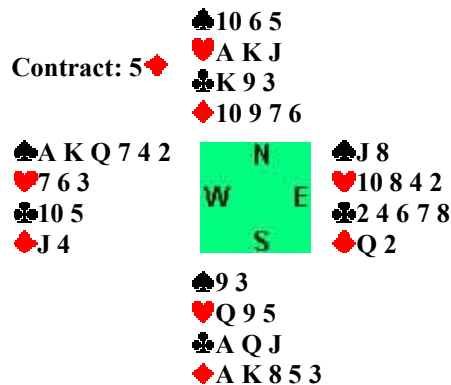
The Uppercut

In bridge, you must learn how the cards can be exploited for defense. One of the widely used defensive techniques in bridge is "uppercut" which is also a boxing or self defense technique..

Uppercut:

Ruff in an attempt to force an opponent's higher trump (usually with a mind to promoting a trump trick for partner).

Look at the below hand diagram.. South is playing 5♦. West starts with A and K of spades.. Then he leads ♠2. Dummy plays ♠10. Now, it's time for East to uppercut: East must ruff with ♦Q (high trump). If declarer overruffs, West's ♦J will be master..



For a successful uppercut, both defenders must realize that they need an uppercut to defeat the contract. As you noticed, West (whose trump will be promoted) did not lead ♠Q in the third round. Because his partner might not ruff a master. East (who uppercuts) played his high trump. If he played ♦2 declarer would overruff with ♦3. And declarer's high trumps would not be effectively knocked out promoting an extra trick for West..

Also, defenders must cash all their winners before attempting to an uppercut. Otherwise, declarer can discard one of his losers instead of overruffing and uppercut fails.

For a successful uppercut:

- 1- Defenders must cash side suit winners before attempting an uppercut,
- 2- Defender must uppercut with a high trump,
- 3- Defender who leads a card which will be trumped, must lead a low card. If it is a master, his partner can discard (forgetting uppercut)a card instead of trumping.