

The Rule of Eleven (11)

The Rule of 11: - A mathematical calculation applicable when the original lead initiating the play of a bridge hand is construed as 4th highest. When applied, either to a suit contract or to a NT contract, it is sometimes possible to obtain an exact reading as to the distribution, in all four hands, of the suit led, with particular emphasis on the available cards that can beat the card led.

If the opening lead against any contract is assumed to be the fourth-highest, Declarer can deduct the numerical number of the card led from 11. The answer is the number of cards in the three remaining hands, Declarer's, Dummy's and the second Opponent's, that can beat the card led. This rule can also be utilized both by the Partner of the Opponent who led, and in the same manner the calculation would denote the number of cards in the three remaining hands, other than in the hand of the Player who led.

Example: (1) (Use of the Rule by the Declarer)

West leads the 7, the 9 is the card to play from Dummy. 7 A93 (Dummy) ???
Subtracting "7" from "11", Declarer can see that QJ5 (Declarer)
East (Partner of the player who has led), cannot beat the 9
as all four such cards lie - two in Dummy and two in Declarer's hand.

Example: (2) (Use of the Rule by the Defense)

West leads the 7, North's 6 is played. East should play the 9. 7 AJ6 (Dummy) K93
As East can see that his/her contains two of the four ??? (Declarer)
Cards that can beat the 6, and Dummy holds the remaining two.
Declarer cannot, therefore, beat the 9. Play the 9, then the K, so as to unblock, and then
play the 3 to allow Partner (West) to then run the suit.