

## Bridge L-O-R-E:

**Look, Observe, Remember, Extrapolate**  
For both Declarer and Defender

### Look:

Watch the cards as they are played.  
Do NOT move your hand to your own cards UNTIL you see the card played on your right.  
(Showing you know what opponent will play provides useful information to an alert defender.)

### Observe:

Silently say each card that appears on each trick.  
Before turning over your card, calculate which remaining cards are missing and where any are likely to be.  
Hypothesize the distribution of the remaining cards in the opener's suit.  
Now hypothesize the distribution of trump (or the long suit when in NT).  
Create scenarios of how the distribution may enable an endplay, or a squeeze.  
Be flexible. It's a game. Sometimes, it's a crapshoot.

### Remember:

Remember what? EVERYTHING!! Right. Get real.  
Many bridge players confront **information overload** early on and never quite recover. So, be selective and train your thinker to remember the most important information. As your memory gets into the groove, you can add to the repertoire of what you remember.

#### In this order:

Count trump;  
Count remaining cards in the crucial suit;  
Count 13 minus [cards visible] in opening lead suit;  
calculate cards held by partner & declarer;  
Remember the high cards in trump;  
Remember the high cards in the crucial suit;  
Remember the spot cards, eventually in every suit.

#### Next level:

Watch partner's signals;  
Consider your own signals (and prepare to play without pausing);  
Identify opponent's signals (and whether they can be believed);  
That's enough for starters.

### Extrapolate:

After opening lead hits the table, consider:  
Why was a different suit not led?  
What touching honors might have been led had opener held them?  
If the unbid suit (or unbid major) was not led, does that provide a clue to opener's holding?  
When defenders do not lead a dangerous suit, does that indicate split honors?

When defending, if your partner does not lead the suit you want, is he protecting an honor?

If you need partner on lead, should you dump an honor to enable that lead (& avoid being endplayed)?

Remember that "rules" of bridge are only guidelines and that thinking and reflecting are often more advantageous than making a formula lead or signal.

### Levels of Bridge Players:

#### Novice:

Confused & amazed & enraptured.

#### Beginner:

Usually follows suit.  
Remembers trump, at least initially.  
Can count to 13 but not 52.  
Still learning to score.

#### Intermediate:

Remembers the auction.  
Remembers partner's lead.  
Sometimes gives a good signal.  
Realizes when a mistake is made.

#### Advanced:

Reads signals and absence of signals.  
Infers what is where by plays & non-plays.  
Recognizes end-plays & squeezes.  
Captures elusive Q about 67% of time.

#### Expert:

Remembers every card played...today.  
Knows distribution by 4<sup>th</sup> card in hand.  
Makes opponents finesse for him.  
Leads opponents down a primrose path.  
Walks on water.