

## THINKING BRIDGE (3)

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Dlr: West	♠ J 7 6 4
Vul: E-W	♥ 7 6 5
	♦ 10 7
	♣ 10 9 6 5
	♠ 8 2
	♥ A Q J 2
	♦ A K Q J 9 4 2
	♣ —

East opens 1♣ in third seat and you overcall 5♦. There must be a better way to bid this hand, but you can't figure out what it is. Everybody passes and West leads the ♠K. You don't catch much of a dummy, but hang in there, think positively and plan the play.

How does playing a 9% contract grab you?

chances are. You must lose two spades tricks, so you can't afford to lose a heart trick. It's time to use your imagination and place the opponents' cards exactly as you need them and then play for that layout. It's called a positive assumption. It is also called "thinking big" and "needing a miracle." How would you place the opponents' cards to make 5♦?

A good start would be to assume that East has ♥K x x (18%), the only lie of the suit that doesn't produce a loser. Even so, you would need to take two heart finesses, so you need two dummy entries. Well, wish upon another star. Wish that West has the ♦8 so you can lead a diamond to the 7 to gain a second dummy entry. And don't forget to ruff the opening lead with the 9 (or an honor). You want to make sure you have two dummy entries in diamonds if West has the ♦8.

Because finesses work only 50% of the time, you are now playing a 9% contract. As sad as this is, it is still better than playing a zero percent contract.

When you are in a desperation contract, envision a winning layout and go for it! Play to make! Miracles happen. The full deal:

	♠ J 7 6 4	
	♥ 7 6 5	
	♦ 10 7	
	♣ 10 9 6 5	
♠ K 10 5 3		♠ A Q 9
♥ 9 8 3		♥ K 10 4
♦ 8 6		♦ 5 3
♣ K Q J 3		♣ A 8 7 4 2
	♠ 8 2	
	♥ A Q J 2	
	♦ A K Q J 9 4 2	
	♣ —	