Hesitations and Extraneous Information

L16B1 Any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized. This includes... unmistakable hesitation....

   a. A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.

Let's take a close look at the following ‘hesitation’ auctions and analyze what kind of action each hesitation is suggesting according to the following classifications:

   a) Encourages further bidding        H+
   b) Discourages further bidding       H-
   c) Meaningless                       H=

1. 1♥ - pass -2♥ - pass
   3♠ - pass ... 3♥
2. 1♣ - pass - 2NT - pass
   ... 3♠
3. 1♦ - pass 1♥ - pass
   2♠ - pass ... 2♦
4. 1♦ - pass - 1NT - pass
   ... 2♦
5. 1♣ - pass - 1 ♠ - 2♦
   ... dbl. (fit)
6. 1♥ - 1♣ - 4♠ - 4♣
   ... pass(F)
7. 1♣ - pass - 1NT - pass
   ... 2♥
8. 1♣ - pass 1♥ - pass
   1NT - pass 2♣ - pass
   ... 2♣(3♥ max)
9. 1NT - 2♥ - ... 2♠
10.  1♥ – 1♣ – 4♥ – 4♣  
    ...pass\(^{(NF)}\) – pas – dbl.

11.  1♦ – pass – 1 ♥ – pass  
    1NT – pass – 2 ♠ – pass  
    ... 2♦\(^{(2♥ min.)}\)

12.  1♠ – pass – 2 ♣ – pass  
    4NT – pass – ...5♦\(^{(0-3)}\)

**Answers:**

**H+** (most common case) – Encourages further bidding after  
  a) Sign-off  
  b) Penalty double  
  c) Answer to a question showing the weakest option

Examples: 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12

**H-** (Rare) – Discourages higher bidding after  
  a) The strongest bids  
  b) Answer to a question showing the strongest option

Examples: 6, 8

**H=** Meaningless  
  a) Invitational bids  
  b) Hand description bids  
  c) Information giving calls

Examples: 4, 5, 7, 9

**Remember if you have doubts about what kind of information the hesitation suggests (or any other additional information)**  
1. Ask the experts before you go to...  
2. ... polling the player panel asking the question *what do you bid?*