



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. $1\heartsuit - 1\spadesuit - 4\heartsuit - 4\spadesuit$
 ...pass^(NF) – pas – dbl.
11. $1\clubsuit - \text{pass} - 1\heartsuit - \text{pass}$
 $1\text{NT} - \text{pass} - 2\clubsuit - \text{pass}$
 ... $2\diamondsuit$ (2♥ min.)
12. $1\spadesuit - \text{pass} - 2\spadesuit - \text{pass}$
 $4\text{NT} - \text{pass} - \dots 5\diamondsuit$ (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...
2. ... polling the player panel asking the question *what do you bid?*