Preference and False Preference - Summary Sheet

Partner opens one of a suit, you respond in a new suit at the 1-level and partner makes a non-reverse rebid in a new suit.

A typical auction would be 1♥, 1♠, 2♦, ?

Forcing or not?

The sequence above is not forcing, **but** it will only rarely be passed.
Sometimes you will have a natural preference for partner's first suit at the same level, and sometimes you will find a further bid just to keep the auction alive.
You must bear in mind that partner might have anything from about 11 points up to a maximum 18.

Mere preference should be based on what you know about the two hands.

If partner has, for example, shown 5 hearts and 4 diamonds (as above) and you hold 3 hearts and 2 or 3 diamonds then a preference bid of 2♥ must be correct - 5-3 should play better than 4-3.
Such a hand might contain anything from 5 to 9 points.

Even with 2 hearts and 3 diamonds it will usually be correct to show preference.
In general 5-2 will play better than 4-3, particularly against a bad split.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	Q 8 6 5 A 9 7 5 2 J 4 3 2	Partner opens 1♥, you respond 1♠, and partner rebids 2♦. You have a choice of a 5-2 heart fit or a 4-3 diamond fit. Bid 2♥. This does not raise the level of bidding and does not promise any additional strength.

Extra strength

If partner holds 17 or 18 points he will make a further bid, showing his shape as best he can in the context of the bidding so far.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	A A K J 5 3 Q J T 5 K 9 4	You open 1♥, partner responds 1♠, and you rebid 2♦. If partner shows preference to 2♥ you will make a further bid of 3♣ promising 17 or 18 points and suggesting the 5-4-3-1 shape.

Responder has 8 or 9 points

With 8 or 9 points responder should stretch to keep the auction alive just in case partner has 17 or 18.
Sometimes this will involve a 'false preference'.

♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	Q 8 6 5 A 9 Q 7 5 2 4 3 2	Partner opens 1♥, you respond 1♠, and partner rebids 2♦. You have a 4-4 diamond fit and a probable 5-2 heart fit, but make a preference bid of 2♥ simply because you hold 8 points and partner might have 17 or 18.