Preference and false preference - teacher's notes

The point to emphasise is that in a sequence such as 1x – 1y – 1z or 1x – 1y – 2z (without reversing) then opener might have anything from about 11 to 18 points.

With a minimum (say 6 or 7 points) responder will then either pass or show a genuine preference to opener's first suit.
Note that with 2 cards in the first suit and 3 in the second then a reversion to opener's first suit will in general be a genuine preference, preferring a 5-2 fit to a 4-3 fit, unless there is good reason to hope for ruffing tricks in responder's hand.
With about 10 to 12 points responder will normally either raise one of opener's suits to the 3-level, rebid his own 6-card suit at the 3-level, or bid 2NT (all invitationally).
and with 13+ points he should either bid a game or force to game, typically with a bid in a new suit or a bid in the fourth suit – in the sequences above these will be the same bid.

This leaves us with the 8 or 9-point hand. With such a hand it is important to keep the bidding open just in case partner has 17 or 18, and this is usually achieved by showing preference to partner's first suit, even when that preference is false.
The corollary is that opener should find one more bid when holding 17 or 18, and in this situation that further bid should always promise 17 or 18 points.

In making the extra bid opener should give priority to showing 3 cards in partner's major, 5 cards in his own 2nd suit, 6 cards in his own first suit, or a bid of 2NT in a 5-4-2-2- hand.

Note that when the first response is at the 2-level I treat opener's rebid in a new suit (non-reversing) as a 1-round force.