

English 103**T9: Making important decisions**

Name:

Class:

Academic number:

Reading:

Do you roll a dice, like Luke Rhinehart's hero in his 1971 novel?

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Dice_Man) or do you agonise and procrastinate for a long time and let things determine what happens next?

Our personality and the situation we find ourselves in determines how we make decisions.

When faced with a relatively simple decision, like which soap or camera to buy, we can come to a decision in three different ways.

1. We can concentrate on one feature. It can be the price, availability or – in the case of the soap – the smell that determines which one we buy. This is a quick and easy decision most of the time and it's very effective when the decision

is simple and does not have long-term consequences. Of course you can see how this can be the wrong attitude in making a complex decision for example about which package holiday to go on.

2. With a camera or a package tour you would concentrate on a variety of features and compare the features that are important to you. You make a list of the key features of the holiday you want to go on (price, means of transportation, accommodation, etc.) and rate each option, tally up the results and go with the highest scoring option. This is a great way to make considered decisions, but it can be a less effective when you are pressed for time and when you have limited information about the available options.

3. The third option is elimination. You choose criteria you consider essential and when an item fails to meet the requirements you have set out, you eliminate the item. This way, by the process of elimination you hopefully end up with one item which meets all your requirements. Besides being quite time consuming, another problem with this strategy is that making the original selection and determining the criteria can be quite limiting and it may lead

to a circuitous situation when you start adding new options and reevaluating criteria. It's important to do enough research that you are sure that the best possible solution is included before you start the decision making process.

Unfortunately we often have to make decisions without having all the necessary information or when we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place.

In these situations we have two options to rely on when making a decision.

The first option is relying on experiences and memories of decisions made under similar situations.

Remembering what you did last time you found yourself in the same situation and what the outcome of that decision was: will help you to make a decision you are prepared for. This is one of the reasons why reading books can be very useful. You remember your fictional heroes' actions in a situation similar to the one you are in and you adapt their strategy of coping with it or, on the contrary, you know the consequences of their decision and you choose to do something different to avoid ending up in trouble yourself.

The second possibility is to consider your image of the person you are. What would your ideal self do in this situation? Making morally right decisions in difficult situations will probably help you make the decision you are happy with. This is a tough way to make a decision but it usually leads to one that you are happy to stand by.

Choose the correct answer.

1. The best title for the article is.:

- a. Making Big Decisions. b. why Making Big Decisions is Difficult. c. How to Make Decisions.

2. Focusing on one feature to make a decision is good for.:

- a. complex decisions. b. simple decisions. c. everything.

3. Focusing on a group of features is good for.:

- a. decisions that you have a long time to make.
b. decisions that you don't have a long time to make. c. complex decisions.

4. Elimination can be a problem because:

- a. it can be stressful. b. it can take a very long time. c. it's not fair.

5. According to the article, when you don't have enough information to make decisions you should.:

- a. rely on your experiences or make moral choices.
b. ask someone else to make the decision for you.
c. stop and think deeply about what you feel is the correct decision.

Read the statements and answer true or false.

1. Focusing on one feature is a time consuming way to make decisions.
2. To make considered decisions, you think of key features then add up the scores to reach your decision.
3. With elimination, you sometimes have to re-adjust the criteria many times.
4. Reading books is an example of how memories and experiences help guide us in making decisions.
5. The positive thing about making decisions morally, is that you can proudly make your choice and stand by it.

Choose the best endings to the sentences about the text.

1. The best decision making technique for issues without long-term consequences is.

- a. elimination. b. focusing on one feature. c. focusing on a variety of features.

2. One of the problems of elimination is.

- a. choosing criteria so high that the "ideal" result doesn't exist. b. you become too picky.
c. it leads to the most expensive decision/choice.

3. Thinking of a superhero when making big decisions is useful because.

- a. it helps you imagine how they would react and what consequences they would face.
b. it makes you feel strong. c. it's fun.

4. Making morally right decisions means.

- a. thinking of what the "ideal" you would do.
b. thinking of famous public figures and what they would do.

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c. thinking what your idol would do.

5. Overall, the article mentions.

a. 3 techniques to help make difficult decisions.

b. 5 techniques to help make difficult decisions.

c. 7 techniques to help make difficult decisions.

Vocabulary:

No.	Word	Translation	No.	Word	Translation
1	Agonise		5	elimination	
2	Feature		6	Criteria	
3	consequences		7	Ideal	
4	complex		8		

Choose the correct word for each definition.

1. To think or worry too much about something.

a. agonise

b. eliminate

c. feature

2. A certain quality.

a. requirement

b. feature

c. effect

3. Something that happens as a result of a particular action or set of conditions.:

a. criteria.

b. result

c. consequence

4. Not simple.

a. complex

b. firm

c. criteria

5. Exactly right or perfect.:

a. ideal

b. extraordinary

c. enough

6. Removing or deleting something. :

a. addition

b. elimination

c. skipping

7. Qualities used to help someone make judgements and decisions. :

a. criteria

b. requirements

c. features

Choose the correct part of speech for each word.

1. ideal

2. consequence

3. criteria

4.agonise

5.feature

6. elimination

7. complex

Choose the correct spelling for each word.

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. a. complex | b. kompleks | c. comblex |
| 2. a. consekwence | b. consequence | c. concequence |
| 3. a. ideel | b. eyeddeal | c. ideal |
| 4. a. agonice | b. agonise | c. egonise |
| 5. a. featshure. | b. fiture | c. feature |
| 6. a. criteria | b. cryteria | c. critiria |
| 7. a. elimination | b. ilimination | c. ellimination |

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. I'm the kind of person that takes a long time to make a decision, I _____ over every detail and worry a lot.
2. This laptop has many good _____, it's very light and it has the latest Office.
3. Being a mother, this is the _____ job for me, I can work from home and choose my own hours!
4. Before making a big decision, you have to think of the _____ and what will happen after.
5. When you do an internationally recognised course, you are usually assessed according to certain _____.
6. The instructions for this activity are so _____ and long, I can't understand anything!

Grammar:

You can use **intensifiers** with adjectives, adverbs and verbs if you want to heighten or lower their intensity.

Use these words well and often to show that you are very interested and involved in the conversation.

Read these sentences.

The movie was quite boring.

The food at this restaurant is rather delicious.

This game is extremely dangerous.

I kind of liked this book.

This design is not good enough for my house.

Some other examples of **intensifiers**:

amazingly; remarkably; exceptionally; particularly; incredibly; unusually.

Here are some **strong adjectives**:

Enormous; huge; (Meaning: very big) tiny; (Meaning: very small)

awful; terrible; disgusting; dreadful; (Meaning: very bad) excellent; perfect; ideal; brilliant; wonderful; splendid; (Meaning: very good) delicious; (Meaning: very good when speaking about food/drink); certain

These intensifiers can come in handy: absolutely, really, completely, exceptionally, totally, particularly, utterly, quite.

Look at these sentences and choose the intensifier.

1. That meeting was quite boring.

- a. quite b. boring

2. He drives incredibly quickly.

- a. quickly b. incredibly

3. His new office is really huge.

- a. huge b. really

4. The house is unusually quiet.

- a. unusually b. quiet

5. The weather today is rather beautiful.

- a. rather b. beautiful

6. His old office is now completely empty. :

- a. completely b. empty

7. Her management skills are exceptionally strong. :

- a. strong b. exceptionally

Read the following sentences and decide if they are grammatically correct or wrong.

Pay attention to the intensifiers.

1. The new building is very enormous.
2. Her laptop is amazingly incredibly.
3. The weather today is terrible.
4. The news about his death was really awful.
5. It's totally disgusting how they throw the trash on the floor.

Choose the correct intensifier in the following sentences.

1. He was a genius! His work on the project was (utterly/very) brilliant.
2. I'm not sure I passed. The exam was (absolutely, very) difficult.
3. I arrived early. It was (totally/rather) easy to find the address.
4. He spent a fortune! His new fax machine was (ridiculously/totally) expensive.
5. She can multi-task. She's an (completely/incredibly) talented girl.
6. She has such good taste. Her apartment is (simply/utterly) beautiful.

Vocabulary:

No.	word	Translation	No.	word	Translation
1	gymnastics		6	Catch up	
2	Seuphoric		7	Fascinated	
3	Blog		8	Script	
4	Webinar		9	Relieved	
5	Awkward		10	Spur of the moment	

Choose the correct word to match each definition.

1. A competitive sport where players train their muscles in flexibility and strength.

- a. gymnastics b. running c. marathon

2. When someone feels extreme happiness and excitement he/she is...:

- a. happy b. euphoric c. depressed

3. A website you create to talk about your personal experiences and opinions. Answers:

- a. blog b. link c. homepage

4. A meeting/seminar that you can have online to discuss your ideas and opinions with people around the world.

- a. conference b. webinar c. chat

5. A situation that you feel uncomfortable in and don't know how to handle is...:

- a. weird b. awkward c. difficult

6. The feeling you get after solving a problem or getting rid of a burden is...:

- a. relieved b. relaxed c. disappointed

7. To talk to an old friend or family members about news that you haven't heard from them.

- a. chat b. catch up c. connect

8. To be very interested in someone or something.:

- a. fascinated b. shocked c. surprised

9. The text of a movie or TV program.:

- a. monologue b. script c. conversation

10. A decision that is made without previous thinking and planning what happens is taken.

- a. at the spur of the moment. b. out of nowhere. c. all of a sudden.

Choose the correct spelling of the word.

1. a. jymnastics b. gymnastics c. gymnastiks
 2. a. escript b. scribt c. script
 3.. a. fassinated. b. fascinated c. fassinated
 4. a. releaved b. relieved c. relived

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|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| 5. a. okward | b . awkward | c. aukward |
| 6. a. blog | b. plog. | c. blag |
| 7. a. euforic | b. eufaric | c. euphoric |
| 8. a. wepinar | b. webinar | c. webinare |

Choose the correct part of speech for the vocabulary words.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. euphoric | 2.catch up |
| 3.relieved | 4.gymnastics |
| 5.awkward | 6.script |
| 7.blog | 8.webinar |

Write the correct word to complete the sentence.

1. I started a _____ last year, I post about my travels around the world in it.
2. I have to be behind the computer at 1 o'clock today, I'm attending a _____ about how to start new businesses.
3. I haven't seen you in 3 months! Let's go out next weekend and _____.
4. It was a very _____ dinner, nobody was talking and everyone felt uncomfortable.
5. After I submitted my project, I felt so _____, I had been stressed about it for so long!
6. I decided to travel 2 days before the trip, it was a _____ kind of decision.
7. When I took my daughter to the zoo, she was _____ by all the animals, she couldn't believe her eyes!