

**A**  Listen to the conversation between two friends, Jennifer and Gabriel. Then read the questions and choose the correct answer.

- 1 How does Jennifer react to Gabriel's news?
  - A She is a little surprised.
  - B She is very disappointed.
  - C She is slightly annoyed by it.
- 2 Why does Jennifer react that way?
  - A Because Gabriel has become a partner at his firm.
  - B Because Gabriel is moving to another city.
  - C Because Gabriel has refused a good offer.
- 3 How does Gabriel feel about working at Baxters?
  - A He enjoys his job but thinks the new one will be better.
  - B He likes his job and is afraid he might regret leaving the firm.
  - C He doesn't think his job is satisfying and is glad to be changing.
- 4 Who offered Gabriel the new position?
  - A One of the directors at his architecture firm.
  - B Someone he had worked with in the past.
  - C Someone his wife met in college.
- 5 How does Gabriel's wife, Elena, feel about the news?
  - A She's excited about it.
  - B She's very anxious about it.
  - C She feels a little frustrated with it.

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 (2 points each)

**B** Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

chance encounter    deliberate decision    fate    fortunate    life-changing experience  
lucky break    path    right place at the right time    wind up

EXAMPLE Sometimes being lucky is just a question of being in the right place at the right time.

- 1 I'm not sure what will happen in the elections, but our \_\_\_\_\_ depends on your vote.
- 2 After the band had a meeting with this famous music producer, they became an overnight success. That meeting for them was their \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 I respect your choice, but I think you've chosen a difficult \_\_\_\_\_ to follow.
- 4 If you don't take better care of yourself, you'll \_\_\_\_\_ being really sick.
- 5 I made a \_\_\_\_\_ never to go back to that store. Their salespeople are so rude!
- 6 After college, I traveled abroad for a year. For me, it was a \_\_\_\_\_. I have never regretted it.
- 7 Our car was low on fuel, but we were \_\_\_\_\_ enough to be near a gas station.
- 8 Yesterday, I met an old teacher of mine from high school. We were both in the same shopping mall. It was a really nice \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ / 8 (1 point each)

**C** Choose the correct answer.

EXAMPLE I called Jim by mistake. It was \_\_\_\_\_. He was upset.

**A** a bad move    **B** in too much of a hurry    **C** the funny side

- 1 It was \_\_\_\_ that I forgot his birthday. I won't do it again.  
**A** the hard way    **B** unfortunate    **C** in too much of a hurry
- 2 I turned left instead of right. What a \_\_\_\_!  
**A** hard way    **B** funny side    **C** silly mistake
- 3 My two best friends are not talking to each other, so I'm constantly finding myself \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A** incompetent    **B** in too much of a hurry    **C** in awkward situations
- 4 She answered the wrong question in the test, which was \_\_\_\_ to do.  
**A** a dumb thing    **B** an awkward situation    **C** a funny side
- 5 I am \_\_\_\_ for having said such a foolish thing.  
**A** kicking myself    **B** finding myself    **C** watching myself
- 6 At the time she was upset, but now she can \_\_\_\_ of it and is just fine.  
**A** learn the hard way    **B** be unfortunate    **C** see the funny side
- 7 Paul failed the test, but it was \_\_\_, because he didn't study for it.  
**A** incompetent    **B** his own fault    **C** a dumb thing

\_\_\_\_\_ / 7 (1 point each)

**D** Choose the correct answer.

EXAMPLE If you thought / were thinking about being a doctor, you'd need to study science.

- 1 If we hadn't taken / wouldn't have taken a wrong turn, we wouldn't be lost now.
- 2 She could have become / would become a great physicist if she had wanted to.
- 3 If we tried / would try a different hotel, we might not like it as much as this one.
- 4 They didn't like / wouldn't have liked this neighborhood if they had moved here.
- 5 If we didn't have so much housework to do, we were going / could go out.
- 6 If I could spell / could have spelled the word, I wouldn't ask you about it.
- 7 If I had been to the lecture, I may have been / had been able to help you with this question.

\_\_\_\_\_ / 7 (1 point each)

**E** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box. Some are negative. Use each verb only once.

be      buy      can / remember      can / see      give      know      live      stay      talk

EXAMPLE If only I knew more people at this school, I think I'd enjoy it more.

- 1 I wish I lived closer to my work. It takes me such a long time to get downtown.
- 2 If only I hadn't bought the other coat. This one is too small for me.
- 3 I wish you hadn't given the last cookie to Amelia. I was saving it for myself.
- 4 If only we hadn't stayed in this awful hotel. It really is the worst we've been to.
- 5 I wish we hadn't talked each other one more time before you have to leave.
- 6 I wish I hadn't forgotten his name, but I can't. I think it starts with a J.
- 7 If only there hadn't been more hours in the day. I would get more things done!
- 8 I wish those people behind us hadn't shouted so loud. I can't hear the movie!

\_\_\_\_\_ / 8 (1 point each)

**F** Read the blog post. Then read the statements and decide if the information is True, False, or Not Given.

### Regret is a waste of time

From an early age, we are taught to reflect on our choices, to assess them, and to learn from our mistakes. We are often told that mistakes can be good – they can make us wiser and teach us to make better decisions. But do we? Are we happy enough with the amount of “good” decisions we make as adults?

Ask yourself this: how many people do you know who often boast about making good decisions? How many people do you know who usually complain about making bad decisions? I bet you know more of the second type. This is normal, and I'll try to explain why. We are all taught to have dreams and goals in life, and these are important because they give us something to fight for. However, think about it. Our dreams are always going to be much better than real life can ever be. Therefore, any path we choose to follow will always be a disappointment in comparison with our perfect, dream life.

This is why we constantly regret things. However, regret is essentially a waste of time, because every decision we make is the right one, the best one at that moment in time. We all make good choices and bad choices, but we'll never know it's bad until it's made.

So, next time you kick yourself and wish you had made a different decision, remember two things. First, that it was the right decision at the time. And, second, that, yes, you can learn with it and use what you learned to make your next decision a very positive one.

1 The writer agrees with the belief that we can learn from our mistakes.	T / F / NG
2 The writer estimates that there are more people who regret their decisions than people who don't.	T / F / NG
3 The writer thinks that we shouldn't have dreams because they are usually impossible to achieve.	T / F / NG
4 The writer believes that most of our decisions wind up being negative ones.	T / F / NG
5 The writer has a pessimistic attitude toward the process of decision making.	T / F / NG

\_\_\_\_\_ / 10 (1 point each)