

Unit 02

Making Decisions



Warm-Up

Hãy cùng bạn học trả lời các câu hỏi dưới đây.

- 1 Do you find making decisions alone easy or not?
- 2 What decisions do you usually make with your friends?
- 3 Do you prefer to make decisions alone or as a group?

Introducing the Topic



Research suggests that adults make 35,000 decisions a day. Those decisions can be very important, like what major to choose at a college. They can also be simple decisions, like what snacks to eat after class. These small decisions are things we can do alone. But if we have a big decision to make, we may want to get advice from others. If our decision affects other people, we may want to ask those who are affected.

Learning about the Topic

Is it better to make decisions as a group?

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Đọc và gạch chân các lập luận hỗ trợ trong đoạn 2 và đoạn 3.

Our lives are filled with decisions. We make easy decisions such as what food to eat for lunch. We make more serious decisions such as what job to take. Then there are decisions that can affect other people. We can make these decisions alone or with other people. But which way is better?

Making Decisions as a Group Is Better

To start, we can use a team's strengths. This relates to the concept of **synergy**.

Synergy is the idea that groups can do better work than individuals can do alone.

Groups can use each member's specific knowledge and experience. As a result, they can make more effective decisions than people can by themselves. Next, groups make it easier to present ideas. In a group, no one member is responsible for the **outcome**. So people will feel less pressure to share their ideas. This helps groups come up with better solutions than individuals.



Making Decisions Alone Is Better

To start, we can make the most appropriate decision. When a group makes decisions, groupthink is a problem. This is when the members agree to decisions just to make the other members happy. But these decisions are often not **optimal**. A study in 1991 found that foreign policy groups made bad decisions just to make everyone in the group satisfied. Next, making decisions alone can be faster. When we have to choose something alone, we can make an **immediate** decision. In groups, all the members must reach an agreement. This can take more time.



Answers: p 110

Vocabulary Check

■ Chọn từ thích hợp để hoàn thành các câu sau.

outcome synergy immediate optimal came up with

1. I finally came up with this great idea and won the game.
2. Groups can create synergy when they work on the project together.
3. In optimal conditions, this tree can live for 100 years.
4. The government failed to take immediate action.
5. We were very happy with the outcome of our work.

Answers: p 110

Comprehension Questions

■ Chọn câu trả lời đúng cho từng câu hỏi dưới đây.

1. What does synergy relate to?
 - a. Synergy relates to using a team's emotions.
 - b. Synergy relates to using a team's strengths.
2. Why do people feel less pressure in a group?
 - a. Because no member takes responsibility for the outcome alone
 - b. Because members in a group do not care about the outcome
3. How can groupthink cause problems?
 - a. People start to think like everyone else.
 - b. People make bad decisions just to make others happy.
4. Why does making decisions as a group take longer than making them alone?
 - a. Because all members need to agree to a decision
 - b. Because individuals are smarter than groups

Answers: p 110