

Live Lesson Notes

Decision Making

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What you will learn in this worksheet:

Useful links

Warm up questions

Useful vocabulary

What decisions do people make every day?

Idioms to talk about decision making

Who is better at making decisions, children or adults?

Model Answers

Useful Links

The paradox of choice

https://www.ted.com/talks/barry_schwartz_the_paradox_of_choice?language=en

3 ways to be a **better decision maker**

<https://medium.com/mind-cafe/3-science-backed-ways-to-become-a-better-decision-maker-e61b95aaf2a7>

How to be a **better decision maker!**

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-be-a-better-decision-maker>

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<https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/>

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Introduction

In this free IELTS Speaking lesson on the topic of Decision-making, you will learn how to talk about decisions, difficult decisions and how we make them.

[Watch the complete video about this topic of the Decision-making here.](#)

Warm Up Questions

These are the kind of questions on this topic of Decision-making that you might find in IELTS Speaking.

Speak out your answer to the following questions!

Are you a decisive person?

What decisions do you find difficult to make?

What decisions do you make everyday?

Useful vocabulary

Here is some useful language to talk about the IELTS Speaking topic of Decision Making.

To **decide** (v.)

e.g. I have decided to learn Japanese

A **decision** (n.)

Make a decision

Take a decision

Come to a decision

Arrive at a decision

I have made a decision to get married

Have you made a decision about/on your wedding venue yet?

I have come to a decision - I will have the wedding in the Hilton Hotel

Decisive (adj.)

Indecisive (adj.)

Collocations:

- A **snap** decision (=quick)
- A **unanimous** decision (=everybody agrees)
- A **tough** decision (=difficult)
- A big / important decision
- A good / bad / bold wise decision
- A **rushed** / **hasty** decision

With 'decision' we can also use these adjectives

Vital / shrewd / straight forward / collective / conscious / controversial / strategic / bilateral / unilateral

What decisions do people make every day?

People have to decide what to wear / eat / cook / think

We may have to consider which book to read / which film to watch / which chore to do first...

We face difficult/**tough choices**

We need to **weigh up the options** (=evaluate the choices)

We need to **weigh up the pros and cons**

You should **consider all the options**

There is so much **uncertainty**

We are **spoilt for choice** nowadays (=too many choices)

Idioms to talk about decision making

I have **made up my mind** = *I have decided*

I **am in two minds** about this one = *I can't decide*

I am **at a crossroads** = *I have a difficult choice to make*

I am **in a real dilemma** = *I have a difficult choice and I don't know what to do*

I can't decide **for the life of me** = *it is very difficult to decide*

I have **had a change of heart** = *I have changed my mind*

We haven't decided yet, it's still **up in the air** = *It's undecided*

I am **sat on the fence**, I can't decide = *I haven't made a decision yet*

This is my final decision, **take it or leave it!** = *You have to accept it!*

Look before you leap = *think before you decide*

I will **cross that bridge when I get there** = *I will think about that consequence later, if it happens.*

Take the plunge = *to finally make a decision after thinking about it.*

I think he is going to **flip flop** again = *change his mind (suggests he frequently does it)*

You should **stick to your guns** = *stick to the decision you made, don't change!*

I am **between a rock and a hard place** = *I am in a difficult situation (where it is difficult to decide)*

I didn't need **to think twice**, I just chose this one. (=think carefully)

It's **Hobson's choice** = *there is no choice at all.*

My wife says we can go anywhere on holiday, so long as she decides.
That is **Hobson's choice!**

Don't put all your eggs in one basket = *diversify, don't risk everything on one thing.*

You should have several different investment plans, **don't put all your eggs in one basket**

Fish or cut bait = *stop wasting time and make a decision*

Who is better at making decisions, children or adults? Why?

Here are some useful phrases to answer this question.

Children because they don't **fret** (=worry) about making mistakes

It **depends on** the situation and circumstances

Critical decisions are always taken by adults

Adults, because they are wiser and can **draw on a lifetime of experience**

Adults are more **pragmatic** when it comes to making decisions

Children never hesitate to decide because they never think about the **aftermath** (=consequences) of their decisions

Now consider the following phrases that we can also use.

Children are very **intuitive** (=decide with feelings)

They **follow their gut feeling** (=decide with feelings)

Children decide quickly, they don't **deliberate** (=hesitate)

Adults are more analytical

They weigh everything up (= evaluate everything)

They look at things **from all angles** (=in many different ways)

Adults overcomplicate/overthink things

*These are useful phrases, but notice they are all **generalising**. For example, you are saying, 'all children are intuitive' but is this actually true?*

Is it always true for all children?

Probably not!

We can avoid over-generalising by adding a word or two to make this less direct and maybe also more polite.

Such as

- “can be”
- “tend to”
- “be more likely to”
- “might”

*This is a kind of **hedging**.*

Using hedging, makes your answers sound more natural, and less memorised!

Look at these examples where we make the above sentences less direct and more natural.

Children **can be** very intuitive

They **tend to** follow their gut feeling

Children **are more likely to** decide quickly, they don't deliberate

Adults **tend to** be more analytical,

they **often** weigh everything up (=assess *everything*),

and **are more likely to** look at things from all angles

Adults might overcomplicate/overthink things

Model Answers

Describe a decision you have made recently?

Well, a **decision that I made** recently is to do with a **purchase** that I made.

So, the **background to this is** basically, I have a website and in running the website, it uses different software to run smoothly, and I have been **toying with the idea of** (*=thinking about*) buying some special software to make the website quicker, to make it load more quickly.

And I **was in two minds about it**, because the software, I wasn't sure it was trustworthy and I wasn't sure if it was **good value for money**.

So as I often do, I am not really a very **intuitive decision maker**, right?

I don't really **follow my gut**. I much prefer to do a bit of research, to kind of **weigh up the pros and the cons** of different things, I even write down sometimes, the good and the bad points. And then **having weighed everything up**, I will make a **final decision**; and sure enough, that's what I did here.

I did quite a bit research on the company and on the software. I looked at the reviews of other customers and then in the end I decided to go for it.

I took, in the end, I actually **took a snap decision**, although there was a

lot of research behind it. And I chose to buy software and to run it and I am very happy with the purchase I made. It seems to work quite well and runs smoothly. So, yes that was a recent decision that I made.

Why do some people procrastinate?

I think it's just a case, **its just a matter of** some people being a bit lazy. Possibly. Some people are lazy and so they just find it easier **to put off decision making** rather than **making snap decisions**.

And I think sometimes **the root cause of that is** that they are afraid of the result. They are afraid of making mistakes.

If I choose 'A' what happens if it is **the wrong choice** and so they would much rather not decide and so they will just **sit around and procrastinate, deliberate**, and do anything to avoid making a decision.

For example, I know a lot of people who when it comes to online purchases they do that. Maybe they've had a bad experience when they bought something that wasn't good or **turned out to be** bad quality and so in future, they are **reluctant to make a choice**, because they are afraid they will **make the wrong choice**, they will **regret making that choice**.

So it's much easier to procrastinate in those kind of situations.