

Life or Death Choices



1. Pair work. Ask your partner the following questions:

- a) When was the last time you had to make a difficult choice? What was the choice and how did you make it?
- b) Do you sometimes have difficulty making choices? Do you know anyone who does?
- c) Have you ever made a bad choice?
- d) Do you prefer to make choices on instinct, or carefully consider your options first?



2. Use the phrases in the box to fill in the gaps in the sentences below.

on the fence	no brainer	on the other hand
leaning towards	agree to disagree	a long shot
unlikely	lock it in	fat chance

- a) Motorbikes are a lot of fun, and they're very fuel efficient, but *on the other hand* they're quite dangerous, and not great in winter.
- b) Pizza or eel soup? That's a *no brainer*, I'll take the pizza.
- c) I think it's very *unlikely* to be a good year for farmers, it hasn't rained in a long time.
- d) Ok so we all agree, let's *lock it in*, I'll book the tickets now.
- e) You think you could beat Mike Tyson in a fight?? *Fat chance!!*
- f) It's *a long shot*, but the only way we can get off this island is by building a boat.
- g) Ok, I'm pretty sure I can't change your mind, and I know you can't change mine, so let's just *agree to disagree*.
- h) I'm not sure where I want to go for my next holiday, but I'm *leaning towards* Thailand, it looks gorgeous!
- i) I'm *on the fence* about which applicant to hire, they're both equally amazing!

3. Pair work. Read the life or death scenarios below and decide what the best course of action is with you partner.

a) You're on a flight over snowy mountains. Your airplane starts experiencing engine problems and a few minutes later your plane crashes! You are knocked unconscious but wake to find yourself relatively unharmed. You look around the crash site and discover you are the only survivor. Do you:

1. Gather as much food and clothes as you can, and start walking in a random direction.
2. Gather what you need but remain nearby. Stay at the crash site and wait.
3. Stay at the crash site, but try to start a large fire using jet fuel to make yourself more visible to rescuers.



b) You're hiking through the woods alone when you see something move out of the corner of your eye. You turn and see a full grown grizzly bear looking right at you. The bear does not move, just sits there staring right at you. It's about 15 meters away. Do you:

1. Slowly back away, trying not to make eye contact.
2. Stand up tall, wave your arms and yell as loud as you can.
3. Turn and run as fast as you can.

c) You and some friends are on a hike in the desert, when suddenly your friend yells out in shock and pain. You spin around to see him lying on the ground, a snake slithering quickly away from him. Your friends call an ambulance, but it will take at least 45 minutes to arrive. Do you:

1. Try to suck the venom out of the wound and then apply a tourniquet above the wound as tight as you can.
2. Have your friend stand up; the bite is on his leg, and the venom will move slower against gravity.
3. Tell your friend to stay as still as possible and apply a pressure bandage on the wound.



d) You find yourself stranded on a deserted island. You may have to survive here for months. What is the first thing you look for?

1. Food. Hunger will make you weak.
2. Fresh Water. Dehydration happens quickly!
3. Shelter. You never know when a tropical storm will hit an island like this.



e) You're on a tropical scuba diving holiday when you see a shark swimming directly towards you, mouth open. Do you:

1. Try to punch the shark in the nose.
2. Try to poke the shark in the eyes.
3. Turn and try to swim away, hoping the shark will be distracted by other prey.

f) You are in your isolated house in the country when a storm hits. Within an hour it turns into the worst storm you have ever seen. You turn on the news and discover a category 5 hurricane is headed your way. You do not have much time to prepare. Do you:

1. Close all the doors and windows and stay in a central room.
2. Open all the windows in your house—they are less likely to break if they are open.
3. Go outside, the biggest danger is your house collapsing on you.



Answers to Survival Game

- a) Leaving the crash site is a bad idea. With modern tracking technology, the chances of rescue teams finding you are high. Starting a fire with jet fuel is also a bad idea. The correct answer is 2.
- b) While it may work with other bears, grizzly bears do not respond well to intimidation, particularly loud noises. And with a top speed of 55 kilometres per hour, it's extremely unlikely you'll be able to outrun a grizzly bear. The correct answer is 1.
- c) It may seem like a good idea, but sucking the venom out is a mistake. Hospitals will often use venom in or around the wound to identify the type of snake so they can better treat the bite. The number 1 priority for any snake bite victim is to move as little as possible, as this greatly slows down the spread of venom. Number 3 is the correct answer.
- d) In almost all survival situations water is crucial. You can last for a lot longer without food and shelter than you can without water, so water should be your top priority. Number 2 is the correct answer.
- e) It's a common misconception that sharks have a sensitive spot on their nose. They do not. It's also extremely unlikely that you would be able to outswim a shark, or that it would become distracted. Your best bet is to go for the eyes. Sharks with limited vision can have a very hard time surviving, and so they might decide you're not worth the trouble. Number 2 is the correct answer.
- f) Open windows may be less likely to break, but that doesn't make up for the chaos that will happen inside your house if you leave them open. And surviving a category 5 hurricane outside is a long shot, to say the least. The best course of action is to close your doors and windows (board them up if you can) and wait it out in a central room, possibly a bathroom. Number 1 is the correct answer.