



# Who's in charge?

This activity is designed to help you explore how confident you are in making decisions. It will also help to highlight the people or processes that influence or pressure you when making a decision.

## What kind of decision-maker are you?

**Q1. You're in town with a group of friends when you see two pupils from the year below you across the street. Your group crosses the street and starts following them, making loud comments and laughing. It's obviously making them uncomfortable, and a bit scared. What do you do?**

- a. I'd tell my friends to stop. If they refused, I'd walk away.
- b. I'd stick with the group, but I wouldn't get involved in the shouting and laughing.
- c. I'd join in with the others. I wouldn't want to be the odd one out.

**Q2. Would you ever buy an item of clothing because it's what your friends are wearing?**

- a. No, I've got my own style and I stick to it.
- b. Sometimes, but those are the things that tend to end up at the bottom of the wardrobe!
- c. Yes – I like to fit in with what everyone else is wearing.

**Q3. You're walking to your best friend's house after school when you run into a group of older kids. They're playing 'chicken' – standing in the road, and jumping out of the way of the traffic at the last minute. They ask you to join in. What do you do?**

- a. Just keep on walking. There's no way I'm getting involved in something as stupid as that!
- b. Use delaying tactics. Tell them I'm going to get my friend and we'll both come back and join in.
- c. Join in. Of course I know it's dangerous but I can't believe I'm really going to get hurt.  
What are the chances?

**Q4. Your best friend has been invited to a party, but their parents have said no. Your friend asks you to cover, by saying that they're staying with you that night. What do you do?**

- a. Say no. I'm not prepared to lie to both sets of parents. And what if something goes wrong at the party?
- b. Spend the whole week worrying about what to do. My friend is putting me under loads of pressure. Eventually my mum notices that there's something wrong and I end up spilling the beans.
- c. Say yes. I know they'd do the same for me. And really, what are the chances of something going wrong?



**Q5. Have you ever done something out of character, or that you knew was wrong or stupid, to try to make someone new like you?**

- a. No. I want people to like me for myself, not for some fake version of me.
- b. Sometimes I catch myself laughing a bit too loudly, or saying things I wouldn't normally say, when I'm around someone new.
- c. Yes. I often get nervous when I'm around someone new and I don't feel like I'm in control.

**Q6. When you have to make a decision, which of the following is most important to you?**

- a. Making sure I look at all sides of the argument.
- b. Getting it over and done with as quickly as possible.
- c. Keeping other people happy.

Now look at your answers. How many As, Bs or Cs did you get? Check below to find out more about your decision-making style.

**Mostly As: Mr or Miss Independent**

You certainly seem to know your own mind. That's great – it means you're confident, and clear about your own limits and boundaries. Just make sure you don't end up so convinced that you're always right that you ignore other possibilities. Sometimes it's good to listen to other people and take their views on board.

**Mostly Bs: In the Mix**

Like most of us, you're somewhere in the middle. You tend to dither a bit and worry about the decisions you've got to make rather than tackling them in a logical way. The good news is that you've got the makings of a great decision-maker. You just need to spend a bit more time weighing up the pros and cons. And learn to listen to – and trust – your own inner voice.

**Mostly Cs: The Butterfly**

You tend to go along with the crowd, and that can get you into trouble. You don't have to curb your enthusiasm all the time – after all, it's a big part of who you are and what makes you fun to be around. Try to slow down a bit, and think before you take the plunge.



**RAILWAY ELECTRICITY IS 100 TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN ELECTRICITY IN THE HOME.**

It is very dangerous so remember the **Rail Life 'Safety Top 3'**:

- **STAY CLEAR OF THE TRACKS.** Is it worth putting your life on the line?
  - electricity can jump up to three metres.
  - don't play with kites or balloons near overhead power lines.
- **USE THE LEVEL CROSSING.** Shortcuts across the railway can kill.
- **KNOW THE SIGNS.** Be alert to railway signs, they could save your life.

