

## Introduction

Hey there, and welcome to the warmup!

You will have **15 minutes** to complete this survey and return to the main task.

The purpose of this round is to give you practice and calibration in preparation for the main task using **two scenarios**.

In the main task, you will be asked to read paragraphs sourced from Reddit, a discussion website. These come from a subreddit (discussion board) called "Am I the Asshole?", or AITA. On this subreddit, users post personal stories in which they have taken actions that may be considered rude, inappropriate, or otherwise 'bad.' They then attempt to justify why their actions were legitimate in context, and ask, "am I the asshole" (AITA) or "would I be the asshole" (WIBTA)?

**Here, "asshole" is a broad term, used to refer to any general inappropriateness in behavior.**

Other users then vote and comment on whether the actions were truly legitimate given the circumstances.

**YOUR JOB is to answer---"is this person the asshole?" --- and provide us a compelling justification for why.** In the main task, you'll also be asked to discuss this with teammates at several points.

To help calibrate your opinions, **we will provide the most popular opinion that**

**other Turkers had to certain scenarios**, so that you can practice. Try to bear these in mind and "calibrate" yourself so that you understand what the expectations look like. However, there is no penalty for getting something "wrong."

Remember to take your time and answer thoughtfully. **You will not be able to go back once you've submitted an answer.**

## Demographics

Before we jump into the warmup, **please tell us a little bit about yourself.**

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- ☐ Less than High School
- ☐ High school or equivalent
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ 2 year degree
- ☐ 4 year degree
- ☐ Professional degree
- ☐ Doctorate

What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other

Which year were you born?

How much total combined money did all members of your household earn last year?

- ☐ Less than \$20,000
- ☐ \$20,000 to \$34,999
- ☐ \$35,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$74,999
- ☐ \$75,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ Over \$100,000

Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How would you describe yourself?

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other

What is your marital status?

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Live with Partner
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed

Would you say religion provides no guidance in your day-to-day living, some guidance, quite a bit of guidance, or a great deal of guidance in your day-to-day life?

- ☐ No guidance
- ☐ Some guidance
- ☐ Quite a bit of guidance
- ☐ A great deal of guidance

We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Here is a seven-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place YOURSELF on this scale?

- ☐ Extremely Liberal
- ☐ Liberal
- ☐ Slightly Liberal
- ☐ Moderate; Middle of the Road
- ☐ Slightly Conservative
- ☐ Conservative
- ☐ Extremely Conservative

Have you ever served on a jury before?

☐ Yes

☐ No

## Scenario 1

**Please read the first scenario.**

So right now both of my kids (16 year old son and 9 year old daughter) and my ex are extremely mad at me because I won't give up my appointed time with them. My son wont even talk to me and my daughter is crying all the time.

A little backstory. Me and my ex divorced shortly after my daughter was born. I blame him for it and he blames me. I won't go into detail here. We ended up with a 50/50 custody agreement switching every other week. While this was 8 years ago we're still not on good terms. We rarely ever talk to each other outside of the kids and i'm perfectly fine with that. One thing we have agreed on since the beginning though is that we don't plan things on days that aren't ours. And unless it's extremely important we don't "switch" days or weeks. In the 8 years since we've been divorced I have never asked him to have the kids on a day that isn't mine and I've never given him one of my days even if he begged.

Well, last week my ex contacted me and told me the "good" news. His parents are hosting a week long family reunion in the summer at Disneyland and he want's to take the kids. Well, the problem is that it's on one of my weeks. He asked me to let the kids stay with him that week or to switch a week with me and I shot him down. It's my week with them and I get to spend it with them. I told him if it's so important to him to reschedule but he claims his parents can't

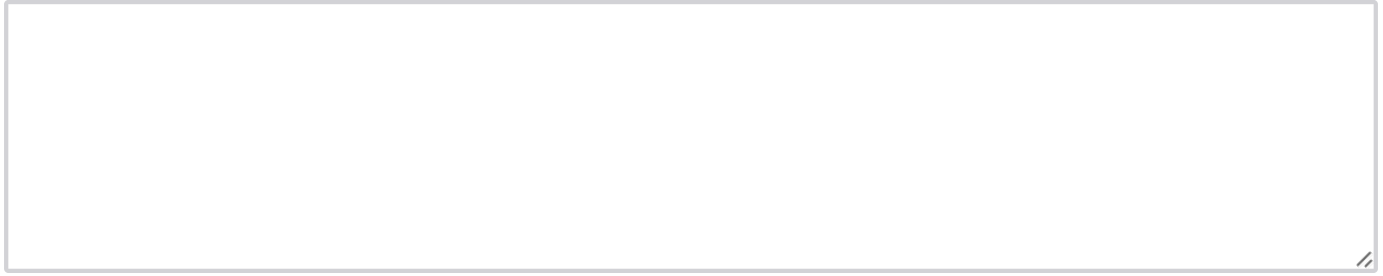
do that and this is the only week that the whole family can go and he told me that I need to "think of them". I told him "tough luck" and hung up on him.

Well, this last Sunday when my ex dropped the kids off with me my son refused to talk to me at all and my daughter wouldn't even look at me. When I asked my ex what was wrong he refused to talk to me, only saying "ask them" in a snarky tone before leaving. When I asked my daughter what was wrong she burst into tears and said that i was "not letting daddy take them to Disneyland". Asking my son (who still refuses to talk to me) it turns out that my ex told them I was not letting them go to Disneyland with him. He's trying to paint me as the bad guy. I sat both of them down last night to talk to them and explain it's my week with them but they refused to listen to me. My daughter just cried and my son told me i'm only doing this to get back at my ex.

I'm not though. I think its unfair for him to do this when his parents scheduled it during my time with them. I demanded an apology from my ex and him to set things straight but he refuses, and his last text to me being "can't tell them the truth cause they already know it".

I'm so pissed right now. Am i the asshole because my ex scheduled something during MY time with MY kids? How is it my fault that i'm only using my right to spend time with them?

Please think about all sides of the issue, and write out your reasoning and thought process. Even something like, "I'm considering these factors..." or "this reminds me of...." is helpful to us! [200 characters minimum]



Finally, tell us your opinion. Is this person the asshole?

- ☐ "Yes, this person is the asshole."
- ☐ "No, this person is not the asshole."

## Scenario 1 Result

In the scenario you just looked at, nearly all people surveyed said **yes, this person is the asshole.**

If you didn't put that answer, you should keep this in mind going forward, and try to calibrate accordingly.

## Scenario 2

**Please read the second scenario.**

During a family gathering my parents once again started asking me about when I'll give them grandbabies. I have been married for 3 years and neither me nor my husband have interest in having kids of our own. I usually just brush them off and walk away but this time they were being extremely persistent. Especially

because my brothers and sisters were around and some of them already have families of their own, even though they're younger than me.

The reason why I'm not into the idea of having kids is that I had to play the role of a parent to all my siblings (6 of them). My parents were irresponsible and had me at 16. Once I was 5 they had my first sibling and the rest of them were born soon after. So since I was very young I had to help out my mother and supervise/take care of 6 kids while being a kid myself.

I never mentioned this to my parents because they never asked me my motives, in fact they brush off the excuses I give them. So I decided that maybe if I were honest they would finally understand but I was very wrong in that assumption. My mother was crying halfway through the explanation and my father got very heated. I tried to have it be a private conversation away from where everyone else was but since things went downhill all my siblings got very curious about what had happened.

I had to then explain what had happened to my siblings which ended up turning into a bigger mess. I was called ungrateful, hurtful, asshole and cold hearted for not only blaming my parents but also for making my siblings feel like they were burdens. At this point my husband and I decided to leave, which only escalated things even further because I ended up getting kicked out of the family group chat and also have been blocked by most of them on social media.

Edit: I want to say thank you to everyone giving advice and being so kind. Also, to everyone that went through the same situation as me, I can't reply to you all but I'm reading everything.

Please think about all sides of the issue, and write out your reasoning and thought process. Even something like, "I'm considering these factors..." or "this



reminds me of...." is helpful to us! [200 characters minimum]

Finally, tell us your opinion. Is this person the asshole?

- ☐ "Yes, this person is the asshole."
- ☐ "No, this person is not the asshole."

## Scenario 2 Result

In the scenario you just looked at, nearly all people surveyed said **no, this person is not the asshole**.

If you didn't put that answer, you should keep this in mind going forward, and try to calibrate accordingly.

## MTurk Confirmation

Please enter your MTurk ID (so we can confirm you finished the warm-up).

## Finish

Great! You're done! Now it's time to move on to the main task!

**Please return to the main task window, which should have a tan screen with text and a timer.**

**Take any remaining time to review the reminders and FAQ's on the page. When the timer runs down to 0:00, you should automatically advance to the main task.** If it freezes / becomes blank for any reason, or the timer runs down to 0:00 and does not advance, you should first REFRESH IMMEDIATELY, or else you may miss the next part of the task.

Hopefully this helped you practice with the Reddit scenarios and have a good sense of what "you're the asshole" and "not the asshole" means.

And don't worry...the scenarios will only get trickier from here! :)

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