

Does relying on intuition lead to better or worse outcomes in decision-making?

Andy Weir's book "The Martian" presents a person's extraordinary life on Mars and his inner struggles as well as what is going on inside his head. Mark Watney being left alone on another planet tries his best to survive which requires brainpower and the ability to think outside the box in order to make the right choices. Therefore, decisions can be made using intuition, which allows for relatively fast choices, or through analytical thinking, which involves slower, more deliberate decision-making. Whether to rely on gut feeling or logical reasoning plays a crucial role in determining the outcomes of Watney's efforts to stay alive. In our modern world, decisions must often be made under pressure, so understanding the balance between intuition and analysis is more relevant than ever.

To begin with, analytical thinking is a slower but more precise approach to decision-making, often leading to more reliable results compared to relying on gut feeling. In Andy Weir's book "The Martian", Mark Watney's actions demonstrate that more thoughtful and planned ideas often reduce the likelihood of failure, though success is never guaranteed. For example, when Mark is left alone on Mars, where gathering food is impossible, he needs to come up with a way to grow his own food in order to survive. In this situation, the astronaut sat down and actively thought about how he could make food. Luckily he had studied botany and was a certified botanist, so he just needed to think of potential ways. Eventually, Mark came up with the idea of growing potatoes inside of a camp, by creating a planting place with Mars dirt and around the whole place put plastic bag walls and planted potatoes with his own poop as fertilizer. Further, he used his knowledge of chemical reactions to create a water generation system for moisture so the potatoes could grow. This detailed planning highlights how analytical thinking can lead to innovative and life-saving solutions, especially when time allows for careful deliberation. However, this greatly provides a sight of how useful this type of thinking can be, we can not forget that intuitive thinking exists.

In contrast, an intuitive approach plays a significant role in rapid decision-making, often relying on instinct and quick judgments rather than careful analysis. This way the time and energy is saved but there are higher chances of making the wrong decision or mistake by accident compared to slower, more deliberate thinking. In fact, this is not always the case, as shown when Mark Watney's helmet cracked, causing rapid oxygen loss. Relying on quick thinking, he instinctively used tape from his pocket to seal the cracks, preventing further oxygen loss and saving his life. This moment proves that having great intuition skills can help and even save lives when fast actions need to be taken as there is no time to waste. However, intuition can also be misleading and lead to poor outcomes when decisions are made too quickly without considering all the variables. For example, Mark's attempt to modify the airlock on the Hab to create more living space demonstrates the dangers of relying too heavily on quick judgments. During this moment, Watney closed a gap in the airlock with duct tape and plastic sheeting believing it would hold under pressure. While his instincts led him to act rapidly, the patch eventually went off and failed to hold due to pressure changes, causing a catastrophic decompression. This incident highlights how intuitive decisions can sometimes overlook details, leading to unlikeable consequences.

Analytical and intuitive thinking are both useful, but the best decisions are often made using both approaches together. These styles of thinking can still work wonderfully by

themselves separately, but it also depends on the situation. Most of the time, it is best to use both, if the best choices have to be made. Mark Watney's analytical skills were frequently used by him, in the book "The Martian" written by Andy Weir, to implement many complex solutions, although his intuition also assisted him in making several necessary adjustments whenever his plans experienced unexpected challenges. An unusual sandstorm was encountered by Watney during his adventure to the Ares 4 MAV, in addition to several other important challenges. His navigation was initially based on his precise calculations. Later on, noticing ecological shifts, such as importantly reduced solar panel efficiency, he instinctively reassessed his route. This ability to combine logical reasoning with quick decisions allows him to avoid disaster and stay on course. Watney shows flexibility is key to good decisions, especially when plans change quickly. This combination shows that neither approach is sufficient by itself, because analytical thinking builds a foundation for right decisions, while intuition allows for quick adaptations to unforeseen challenges.

Overall, each of us thinks differently and that makes us unique as a person yet we all still make decisions relying on intuition or analytical thinking. Therefore, choices are made daily by everyone and it is important to understand whether to rely on one or another thinking style. When it comes to situations where quick actions must be made or immediate results must be seen, the gut feeling can be advantageous. On the other hand, where time allows for consideration and new ideas, logical reasoning is ideal for more reliable outcomes. However, the best suggestion is to use both together as they complement each other. By doing this, the best decisions are made and the most optimal results are seen.

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