Decision Making

Decision making is about using relevant criteria to make a **choice** between some given possibilities. Here is a useful set of strategies:

- Be clear as to what you have to make a decision about or choose between. You might like to state the 'problem' or issue as a question:

  → What will I eat?
  → Who can help me with my homework?
  → How can I make friends?
  → How can I learn to play better basketball?

- Identify the **choices** or alternatives.

  How can I make friends?
  → Pay people to like me.
  → Buy them gifts.
  → Tell them jokes.
  → Be nice to everyone.
  → Smile a lot.

- List the **good** and **bad** things about each choice.
- Identify some relevant **criteria** for comparing the choices. Can it be done? Is it honest? Is it appropriate?
- Compare your choices using these criteria.
- Rate each choice according to the criteria.
  1 = poor, 2 = average, 3 = good in each criteria.
- Make a decision by selecting the best possible choice eg. the choice with the most rating points.

Useful questions to ask when MAKING A DECISION

- What is the main issue I have to make a decision about?
- What are the choices I can choose between?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each choice?
- From these what are some relevant factors to consider in making my decision?
- Can I rate (3,2,1) my choices using these factors?
- Which choice rates most highly overall?

Decision making involves making a choice between some different alternatives. Before you can do this you need to compare your choices using relevant factors. To find these factors you need to consider some **good** and some **bad things** about each choice.

1. Your parents will allow you to buy a family pet. The choice is between a parrot, a dog, a snake, and a rabbit! Write in one good and one bad thing about having each of these animals. Then use these things to identify some **relevant factors** to consider in making a decision about which pet to buy. Share your factors with the class.

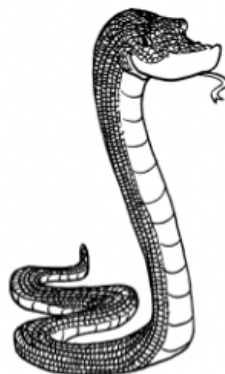| Animal	Good thing	Bad thing
parrot		
dog		
snake		
rabbit		

Relevant factors to consider in making my decision:

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Imagine you had a choice to become a doctor, a mechanic, an artist, or a teacher. Write down a good thing and a bad thing about having each of these jobs. Then use these things to identify some RELEVANT FACTORS to consider in making a decision about which job you would like. Share your factors with the class.

Job	Good thing	Bad thing
doctor		
mechanic		
artist		
teacher		

Relevant factors to consider in making my decision:

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. Imagine you were shipwrecked on a deserted island. You have to make a camp somewhere on the island. List some factors, or features, of different places on the island you would consider in making your choice. Eg. closeness to river or water supply. Share your factors.

Factors to consider	Reason why factor important
1. closeness to water	need to drink every day
2.	
3.	
4.	