

4.122

1. If you knew a friend was cheating on someone, would you tell?
2. Would you buy fake designer goods?
3. Would you pay more for fair trade goods to help small farmers?
4. Would you leave your car at home and take public transportation to save the environment?
5. Would you risk your life to save a stranger?
6. Would you share your lottery winnings with friends and family?

4.123

1. I don't know. One side of me thinks that I should tell. But then it's not really my business, and I don't want to lose my friend.
2. I think we shouldn't, because they're illegal, and probably made and sold by criminals.
3. Yes, I would. I want to make sure small farmers are paid enough money.
4. Your car is just a status symbol, so if you care about the environment, you should leave it at home and travel by bus or subway.
5. I'm not sure. Most people would probably wait for someone else to help. But if help didn't come in time, they'd feel guilty.
6. I'm the sort of person who likes to share, so I might share some of the money.

4.124

Nick Oh, Janice. Do you have a minute? Do you want to take a quiz?

Janice What quiz, Nick?

Nick It's a dilemmas quiz, here in the magazine. Each question has a different dilemma, you know, a kind of question where you have to decide what's right or wrong.

Mandy Yeah, I just quizzed Nick and he had some very strange opinions.

Janice OK, sounds interesting. I'm in.

Nick OK, I'll read out the questions for you both.

4.125

Nick Ready? The first dilemma you have to face ... As a birthday gift, a friend give you a lottery ticket. Surprise, surprise! The question is, "Would you share the money with your friend, or keep it for yourself?" Janice?

Janice Ooh. A tough one! I guess the question is really, uh, "Am I the sort of person who shares?" Hm ... I guess it's like getting a box of chocolates. You'd probably offer the person who gave it to you one or two pieces. Yeah, I suppose I would share – not all of it, but some.

Mandy It's my birthday and my friend only buys me one cheap lottery ticket? Forget it. It's a small gift that turns out to be lucky. I'd keep quiet and keep the money.

4.126

Nick Next question. Your best friend is a guy ... He has a girlfriend who you've met a few times. One day you see his girlfriend kissing another guy. The question is, "Would you tell your best friend or not?" Mandy?

Mandy I'd speak to her first and get the facts. If she were cheating, I'd ask her to decide what she wants; make a choice between the two guys.

Nick And if she didn't?

Mandy I'd tell my best friend.

Nick Janice?

Janice I don't know ... it's really not my business, is it?

4.127

Nick One more. You don't have much money but, of course, you want to look your best. You can afford to buy fake fashion items, like a copy of a designer purse. However, you know that fake goods are illegal and probably made and sold by criminals. What would you do?

Janice Oh! I'm guilty of that one! I think we've all done that, haven't we? I guess it's wrong, but the real things are so expensive.

Mandy Janice! It is wrong – and you shouldn't do it.

Janice Really? Don't you?

Mandy Never.

Janice Because you're afraid of supporting criminals?

Mandy No ... because everyone knows you're carrying around a cheap fake!

4.128

Man Life is full of big and small dilemmas, choices you make between what is right and wrong. Often, the wrong choice is the one you'd prefer. Many people face dilemmas every day. Imagine you have lots of money and a beautiful new car. It's convenient to drive to work. Your car is also a status symbol and makes others look up to you. On the other hand, you could travel more cheaply by bus or subway. Using public transportation would also help to save the environment. Would you be willing to leave your nice car at home, even one day a week?

Most people put their own comfort in front of the comfort of other people. Think about the many opportunities we have to help poor people – but we don't. For example, we can buy fair trade coffee and other groceries to make sure farmers are paid enough money. Not a lot, but enough so they have good lives. But, because fair trade groceries cost a bit more, or we have to go to a different store, we don't bother. Would you change your eating habits to help someone in another country?

In the same way, people generally put their own safety in front of the safety of others –

though not always. Heroes act quickly when they see a stranger drowning or caught in a fire, but most of us step back and wait for someone else to help. If help doesn't come in time, we just say no and, perhaps, feel guilty. Imagine a confused old man is walking in the traffic at a busy intersection. You could run out to save him, but you both might be run over and killed. What choice would you make?

Sometimes, the choices are even more difficult. An Australian woman was caught in a tsunami and faced a horrible dilemma. As the waves rushed in around her and her two young children, she realized she couldn't save them both. So she let go of the older one. Would you have done the same? Fortunately, all three lived.

Facing dilemmas and making difficult choices is part of life. Thinking carefully is the best way to make the correct choices.

4.129

Example: I'd speak to her first.

1. You have to decide what's right or wrong.
2. I'd ask her to decide what she wants.
3. Am I the sort of person who shares?
4. I just quizzed Nick and he had some very strange opinions.
5. One day you see his girlfriend kissing another guy.
6. Would you have done the same?

4.130

Confucianism is a system of teachings developed by the Chinese philosopher Confucius around 2,500 years ago. Historically, the countries most strongly influenced by Confucianism include China, Korea, Japan and Singapore. Although the influence of Confucianism is less powerful in the 20th century, its ethics can still be felt in these places today.

Ethics are the practice of doing the right thing in any given situation. According to Confucian ethics, one of the most important virtues a person can have is called "filial piety", which means having respect for your parents and ancestors. Filial piety is a key virtue in Chinese culture and it is the main theme of many ancient stories.

One of ancient China's most famous books, Guo Jujing's *The Twenty-Four Filial Exemplars*, tells stories of how children showed great devotion to their parents, often making large sacrifices to ensure their parents' happiness. For example, story number 14, called "He Labored to Support His Mother", tells the story of a man named Jiang Ge, who carried his mother on his back to fulfill her wish to travel. When they encountered thieves on their journey, the thieves were so impressed by Jiang Ge's filial piety that they let him go without stealing from him.

However, the concept of filial piety is now under threat in modern China. Three decades of rapid economic growth have put families under enormous strains, with millions leaving their parents in rural areas as they migrate to the cities to find work. In addition, projections show that by 2030,

one in four Chinese people will be over 60. At the same time, China's former one-child policy means that the burden of care usually falls on a single offspring.

In 2012, the government went to so far as to make a law requiring adult children to visit their aged parents often. Since the law has proved unenforceable, the government is now trying to use other means to encourage filial piety. Local governments hold contests to find the most "filial children" and in the Sichuan province, the first Filial Piety Museum was opened. Museum founder Liao Lin hopes that people will visit the museum and become more filial.

"People will see these perfect examples, and be inspired to do even better", he said.