

Upper Intermediate – Consider the Consequences of Your Actions

A. You've got a lot of homework this weekend and important exams coming up at school. You know you should spend Saturday and Sunday studying, but you've been having a hard time focusing on your work. It's Saturday and you spent most of the morning thinking and worrying about the amount of work you've got rather than doing any of it! It's now 3pm on Saturday afternoon, and you've just managed to sit down and finally do a good hour's work. You are taking a break to make some coffee when you see a text from a friend telling you there's a party tonight that everyone is going to and asking you if you want to come.

What would you do?

B. You are saving up to go to a music festival this summer. You found a part-time job, and you have some money saved-up, but it's taking a long time to save enough to pay for the ticket, transport to the festival and spending money while you're there. Now, you're out shopping with some friends in town. You don't want to buy anything, but while you're waiting for your friends in a shop, you see an amazing pair of trainers on sale. You love them, and they have one pair left in your size. The problem is they're expensive, even with the sale discount, and will take almost half the money you've saved for the festival.

What would you do?

C. You are at one of your friends' homes with a group of people. It's getting late and your parents asked you to be home by 10.30pm, but you're having fun and you want to stay out and come home at midnight. Your parents have gone to the cinema. You try both of their mobile phones, but no one answers. You feel annoyed that you can't get hold of your parents. Your parents probably won't be home till late anyway, so they might not find out you weren't at home on time.

What would you do?

Reflection Point

The decisions we make and the actions we take affect what happens in the future. We often make decisions or do things without considering all the consequences, especially when they have positive short-term consequences. We can't predict all eventualities, but it's important to think about long-term consequences before we act.