Predicting Consequences Overview

A **consequence** is what happens after you take an action. The action you take causes something to happen. The thing that happens is the consequence.

Action		Consequence
You say, "May I have a cookie, please?"	→	Someone gives you a cookie.
You wait in line for a drink of water.	→	You get a drink of water when it is your turn.

Consequences can be good or bad. If you take an appropriate action, the consequence will usually be something good. If you take an inappropriate action, the consequences will probably not be something you want.

Action		Consequence
You say, "Give me a cookie now!"	→	You don't get a cookie because you didn't ask politely.
You push your way to the front of the line for the water fountain.	→	Your teacher makes you go to the back of the line because you didn't follow the rules for waiting in line.

What would be the consequence of each of these actions?

Action		Consequence
During a meal you say, "Could you please pass the salt?"	→	
You say to your mom, "Give me some money for candy and a soda."	→	

Making Decisions ❶ ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

You make decisions every day. Some decisions are easy because there are no serious consequences—you can't really make a bad choice. Some decisions are more difficult because the consequences are more serious. The decision might affect how well you do in school, how another person feels, whether you get in trouble, or your health and safety.

Easy	**Difficult**
No Serious Consequences	*Serious Consequences*
• What should I eat for breakfast?	• I don't have much time. Which homework assignment should I do?
• What pants should I wear to school?	• I'm invited to two parties on the same day. Which one should I go to?

Decide which decisions below are easy and which ones are difficult. Put a check in the correct column. Be ready to give good reasons for your choices. An easy decision for you might be a difficult one for someone else.

		Easy	Difficult
1.	What should I play at recess?	_____	_____
2.	Which two friends should I invite to sleep over?	_____	_____
3.	Which songs should I load onto my new mp3 player?	_____	_____
4.	Who should I sit next to at lunch?	_____	_____
5.	My best friend is really mad at me. What should I do?	_____	_____
6.	Which video game should I play first?	_____	_____
7.	I don't understand this math page. What should I do?	_____	_____
8.	I rode my bike a long way and I'm lost. What should I do?	_____	_____
9.	I lost the money Mom gave me for the store. What should I do?	_____	_____
10.	Should I watch TV or read a book?	_____	_____

Predicting Consequences ❸ ••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••

The actions you take have an effect on other people. Answer the questions to make predictions about these stories.

1. Your grandparents are over to celebrate your birthday. They've brought you a gift and you open it in front of everyone. It's a CD by a group you've never heard of. You say to your grandparents, "Who told you to buy me this? I don't even know who this is."

   What will happen next?

   How do your grandparents feel about what you said? How do the other people who are there feel?
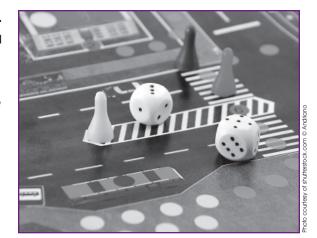
   What should you have said differently?

2. You are playing a board game with three friends. You have been ahead the whole game and you are just about to win. Another player catches up with you. On the last turn of the game, the other player passes you and wins. You push the game board and knock down all the pieces. You say, "I'm never playing this stupid game again."

   What will happen next?

   How does the person who won feel about what you said and did? How do the other players feel?

   What should you have said and done differently?

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3. You and a friend are playing video games in the living room. You're also drinking soda and eating chips. There are cans, bags, and video game stuff all around the room. You say, "Let's go outside for a while and see what's happening."

   Your friend asks, "Shouldn't we clean this stuff up first?"

   You say, "Don't be a baby. My mom will take care of it. Let's go."

   Your mom is walking in the hallway past the living room when you say that.

   What will happen next?

   How does your mom feel about what you said? How does your friend feel?

   What should you have said and done differently?