

ESL Conversation Club: Life's Defining Choices

Idiom of the Week:



All bark, no bite.

Warm-up:

I have got a date at a quarter to eight;
I'll see you at the gate, so don't be late.

Conversation Questions in Groups of 2 People:

- Tell us about a decision that took courage and changed the course of your life. Was it moving to a new country, pursuing a hidden passion, or saying "no" to something safe?
- Has a seemingly small decision unexpectedly led to big positive changes?
- Do you consider facing a fear or overcoming a challenge as one of your best decisions? Why did it shape you positively?
- Is there a time where saying "yes" to something, like an opportunity or a relationship, led to amazing outcomes?
- Did saying "no" to something, even if it was difficult at the time, ultimately lead to a better path?
- Have you ever trusted your intuition and decided based on a "gut feeling," even if it did not make sense at the time? Did it pay off?
- Did you ever choose an unconventional path, like a unique career or an alternative lifestyle? Tell us why it's been rewarding.
- Did a decision that honored your cultural heritage or being true to yourself turn out to be an empowering decision?

- Have you ever taken a calculated risk for something you really cared about? Describe the leap of faith and the rewarding outcome.
- Did someone's encouragement or belief in you inspire a successful decision?
- Can you remember a decision that seemed like a mistake at first but eventually led to valuable lessons or unexpected good fortune?
- Have you ever forgiven yourself for a past decision and used it as inspiration for personal growth?
- Did a seemingly small decision create a positive ripple effect in your life or the lives of others? Share the unexpected chain reaction of good choices.
- Has a decision to learn a new language, travel to a new place, or connect with a different culture expanded your worldview and made you a richer and wiser person?
- In the future, what qualities do you want to bring to your future decisions? Will you prioritize courage, intuition, or careful planning?
- Based on your experiences, what advice would you give to new immigrants or people facing big life decisions?



Vocabulary to Practice

- **changed the course of your life:** (verb phrase) When something significantly alters your direction or the way your life unfolds, like moving to a new country, starting a new career, or overcoming a major obstacle.
- **facing a fear:** (verb phrase) To confront something that makes you anxious or nervous, like public speaking, heights, or spiders.
- **overcoming a challenge:** (verb phrase) Successfully dealing with a difficult situation or problem, requiring effort, resilience, and maybe even courage.
- **outcomes:** (noun, plural) The results or consequences of a decision, action, or situation. Think of "positive outcomes" or "negative outcomes."
- **pay off:** (verb phrase) To be worthwhile or bring positive results, like "The risk paid off in the end." or "My hard work paid off with a promotion."
- **unconventional path:** (noun phrase) A choice or approach different from the typical or expected one, like choosing an unusual career or lifestyle.
- **alternative lifestyle:** (noun phrase) A way of living outside the mainstream, like living off the grid or practicing non-traditional medicine.
- **being true to yourself:** (verb phrase) Acting authentically and honestly, expressing your genuine values and desires.
- **unexpected good fortune:** (noun phrase) Lucky breaks or positive outcomes that you didn't anticipate, like winning a lottery or unexpectedly landing a dream job.

