

**How to make hard choices**  
by Ruth Chang



WARM-UP

**1. Discuss the questions. In your answers, use the underlined words and phrases.**

- A hard choice - a **curse** or a **godsend**? Give examples.
- What is a hard choice you'll **face** in the near future?
- How do you **make a choice**? Do you consider all options or take the safest one?
- Do you always try to **figure out** the effects of your potential choices?

VIDEO & DISCUSSION

**2. After watching the video, answer the following questions:**

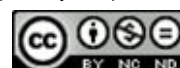
- What is the speaker's attitude towards choices?
- What makes a choice hard?
- Who are drifters? Do you know anyone who you could call a drifter?
- Can you give examples of some small choices you make every day?

VOCABULARY

**3. Decide which of these idioms will be used to describe something difficult and which something easy.**

*a child's play*      *dead easy*      *a tough row to hoe*      *an uphill battle*  
*a breeze*      *a piece of cake*      *a tough nut to crack*

DIFFICULT	EASY
<i>a tough row to hoe, an uphill battle, a tough nut to crack</i>	<i>a child's play, dead easy, a breeze, a piece of cake</i>



**4. Complete the sentences with the vocabulary given.**

*to for consideration favour against twice willing*

- a) I will give a lot of **CONSIDERATION** to such a difficult choice.
- b) Generally, I am in **FAVOUR** of introducing this new law.
- c) Fewer students than ever opt **TO** study maths at a higher level.
- d) I am not **WILLING** to accept all conditions they offer.
- e) Parents should think **TWICE** before letting their children go on holiday alone.
- f) I am **AGAINST** the idea to throw away all unnecessary clothes.
- g) I felt much better, so I decided to go **FOR** a skirt, instead of my everyday jeans.

**5. Using the vocabulary from exercise 3 and 4, discuss the following choices.**

- A. Would you choose to have a boss that is demanding or the one that is lenient?
- B. Would you prefer to have neighbours with small children or neighbours that love listening to loud music?
- C. Would you rather be alone for the rest of your life or always be surrounded by annoying people?
- D. Would you prefer to have an apartment near the beach or an apartment with a swimming pool?
- E. Would you rather speak perfect English or know the basics of Chinese language and be able to communicate?
- F. Would you rather always have to tell the truth or always lie?
- G. Would you rather find your true love or a suitcase with five million dollars inside?