

THEME 2 PLANS READING SKILL (COUNT ME IN)

A. Take a quick look at the e-mail text, find out what it is about and circle the correct option.

- a. Ethan's memories b. Ethan's emotions, plans and arrangements

Dear Mum,

It's a week since I came here. I miss you all very much but I must be patient and fight against all the difficulties. As you always say, no sweat, no sweet. I sometimes feel lonely but don't worry about me because I have great friends and they care about me. Everything is going well. The school, the instructors and the dormitory are all great. I'm making new friends here. I can get on well with the people around, especially Kuzey, from Turkey. I hope all is well at home.

We have made arrangements for the weekend. Our classmate Bethany is showing us around the city tomorrow morning. We are meeting at the city center and taking a city tour by bus. In the afternoon, we are visiting the NASA Aviation Museum. The tickets are a bit expensive but it's worth seeing. You know, I've always been interested in space. And at 8 pm. we are having dinner in an oriental restaurant. Everyone in the group is joining. I'm looking forward to Sunday as well. I'm going to Verizon Center with Kuzey. We're watching the Wizards live. Our seats are very close to the court. Can you imagine us just a couple of meters to the NBA stars?

By the way, we have the academic calendar, now. I'm going to visit you in the third week of January in the semester holiday, and we're going to enjoy our time together for two weeks. I'll let you know all the details when I get the tickets. This is just a plan, an intention for now. The summer holidays start in early June but I'm not going to visit you then. With a group of friends, we are going to fly to Chicago. We're going to spend a week there. I'm excited about this summer. We are going to build a swimming pool in the garden with Dad and redesign the garden. He told about it last week. I hope everything goes as planned.

I've just received a message from friends and they are waiting for me outside. I will leave now and join them for dinner.

Bye for now, big big hugs! Ethan.

B. Read the text again and answer the questions

1. How does Ethan feel about his family and school?
2. What are their arrangements for the weekend?
3. What does Ethan plan to do on holidays?

C. Put (A) for arrangements or (I) for plans and intentions.

1. visiting NASA Aviation Museum _____
2. going to Verizon Center _____
3. visiting the family in the semester holiday _____
4. building a swimming pool _____
5. watching the Wizards live _____
6. flying to Chicago _____

D. Read the text and answer the questions.

How to Make Quick Decisions?

Everybody should balance out their decision-making processes for unexpected developments. And this usually causes trouble. For this reason, nowadays, people are reading more books, participating in different seminars and getting help from different experts to learn how to arrive at a right decision at the right time. The psychologists suggest many techniques on this issue. In this article, we have summed up the most common ones for you. Here are 5 top tips to help you dive into your decisions head first.

Think black and white

Sometimes we have more choices than we actually want or need. In this case, simply consider your options as good or bad. This will help you clear out the less optimal decisions. If you focus on every detail, this approach is ideal for you.

The 2-minute-rule

Set the timer and start the process. If you want to make a fast decision, the time limit will help you run through the advantages and disadvantages quickly while coming to a decision. If you are not a fast decision maker, this tip is a life saver for you. The two-minute is not a must, anything from one to five minute will also work.

Put your choices in a hat

Sometimes all options seem to have equal value for us. At those times, write down your best ones on separate pieces of paper and put them in a hat/bag. Pull out one of them randomly and make it your decision. We can sometimes rely on good luck.

Focus on the present

We shouldn't be overwhelmed with the big picture all the time. Trying to see how our decision will affect the future is mentally exhausting. Live in the moment, make a decision, then engage yourself in the next step.

Embrace the idea of failure

Slow decision makers generally have a fear of failure, so they overthink the situation. Ultimately, they run the risk of making no decision, at all. They waste their time and energy on small details and exaggerate analyzing. At these times, we should keep in mind that delaying the decision-making process is sometimes worse than making a bad decision or at least, we can learn a lot from it. If we want to have control over lives and decisions, we should risk failing with our decisions. Otherwise, others or outer effects will dominate our lives.

1. Why are people participating in different seminars nowadays?
2. How many tips does the writer suggest? What are they?
3. How does the 2-minute-rule work?
4. In which condition do we have to rely on good luck?
5. Which tip is the most helpful for you? Why?