

11.1 *In their shoes*

Aim: Practice talking about ethical dilemmas

Preparation: Make one copy of Worksheet 11.1 for every S.

Comment: Use after the discussion *Ethical dilemmas* on page 90.

- Ss work in groups of four. Give each S a handout.
- Explain that each group is an ethics committee whose role is to analyze ethical dilemmas and to advise and educate people regarding difficult decisions.
- Give Ss ten minutes to read each situation and answer all the questions. Then give groups another ten minutes to discuss the appropriate action for each situation.
- Go around and help as needed. When Ss have finished, conduct a class feedback session.

Secrets or lies?

One day, while Peter was driving home, he accidentally hit a child on a bicycle. He stopped and got out of the car. Luckily, the child seemed fine. He offered him a ride home, but the child declined. Later that night, the evening news showed a picture of the child and said his broken arm was a result of a hit and run.

1. Would you have let the child go home?
2. If you were Peter, would you have contacted the police?
3. If you were Peter, would you keep it a secret?
4. If you were Peter, would you be afraid to tell the truth?

You or them?

Anne only had a few minutes to get to an important job interview. On the way, an elderly woman asked Anne to help her cross the street. The old woman walked very slowly. When they got to the other side, the old woman asked Anne to help her cross one more street. Anne was going to be late for her interview.

1. If you were Anne, would you have continued to help the woman?
2. What would you say or do about the job interview if you decided to help her?
3. What would you tell this woman if you decided not to help her?
4. What's more important: helping someone else or helping yourself?

Stay or go?

On the coldest day of the year, a homeless man came in for breakfast at the café where Dana worked. In spite of his dirty clothes and messy hair, the man was polite and minded his own business. Concerned that the man would bother the other customers, the café owner asked Dana to tell him to leave.

1. If you were Dana, would you tell the man to leave?
2. Do you think the café owner's request was reasonable?
3. If you were in Dana's position, what would do?
4. If you had to tell the man to leave, what would you say?

Professional ethics or friendship?

In his role as an accountant, Andy discovered that his friend Brenda had been stealing small amounts of money from the company where they both worked. Rather than report this, he confronted Brenda. She confessed, said she'd replace the money, promised to never steal again, and begged him to help her and not report her crime.

1. Would you have reported Brenda?
2. If you were Andy, would you help Brenda?
3. What would you tell Brenda if you decided you could not keep her crime a secret?
4. What's more important: friendship or professional ethics?