

词汇: making decisions 作决定

Life is full of **choices**, some **inconsequential**, some really **significant**. But sometimes it can be hard to make the correct one. What are the obstacles that stand between us and a **good outcome**?

Some of us just find it hard to **decide**. Alice Boyes, writing for Harvard Business Review, tells us this can be connected to **perfectionism**, where people attempt to find a **perfect solution** to any problem and are unable to move forward when they can't find one. It might seem that being **indecisive** would stop us making the right decision, but in fact it could actually help us make the correct ones.

Susan Krauss in Psychology Today reminds us that people often make bad decisions because they base them on **preconceptions** rather than the context in which things happen. She highlights a paper by researcher Iris Schneider which finds that indecisive people are more likely to look at different **perspectives** and use them to **come to a** better **decision**. So, it could be that a more significant **barrier** to making the best choice is our **cognitive biases**.

David Robson, speaking to the BBC's Crowd Science, tells us that intelligence can sometimes stop people making the right decision. People sometimes use intelligence to invent **justifications** for **irrational beliefs**. He believes that **humility** is key to making a good decision. People who can accept that they might be wrong are more likely to consider different viewpoints. He is backed up on this by Jeff Bezos. Tech CEO Jason Fried recalls the Amazon founder saying how the people who were right a lot of the time were the people who often **changed their minds**.

So, maybe rather than indecision, it might be intelligence and decisiveness, backed up by our biases that actually stop us making good choices. While humility and **indecisiveness** could help us pick the best option.

词汇表

choice	选择
inconsequential	无关紧要的
significant	重要的
good outcome	好的结果
decide	作决定
perfectionism	完美主义
perfect solution	完美的解决办法
indecisive	犹豫不决的
preconception	先入之见，成见
perspective	（思考问题的）角度，观点
come to a decision	作出一个决定
barrier	障碍
cognitive bias	认知偏差
justification	辩解，正当理由
irrational belief	非理性的看法
humility	谦逊
change one's mind	改变主意
indecisiveness	犹豫不决

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What other personality trait is linked to indecisiveness?
2. True or false? *Indecisiveness can make us happier.*
3. According to Schneider, what are indecisive people more likely to consider?
4. How can intelligence stop us making good decisions?
5. According to Jeff Bezos, what characteristic makes people right a lot of the time?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. It's important to get _____ decisions correct.

inconsequential	significant	decisive	perfectionist
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2. Indecisiveness is a personality _____.

choice	justification	trait	perspective
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3. It's good to be able to _____ your mind.

decide	choose	justify	change
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4. It's not always easy to _____ to a decision.

go	reach	come	choose
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5. Looking at things from different _____ can help us make good decisions.

outcomes	traits	preconceptions	perspectives
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What other personality trait is linked to indecisiveness?

Indecisiveness is linked to perfectionism.

2. True or false? *Indecisiveness can make us happier.*

False. According to Eric Rassin, it is linked to lower life satisfaction.

3. According to Schneider, what are indecisive people more likely to consider?

Schneider found that indecisive people are more likely to consider different perspectives.

4. How can intelligence stop us making good decisions?

David Robson tells us that intelligent people sometimes use their intelligence to invent justifications for irrational beliefs.

5. According to Jeff Bezos, what characteristic makes people right a lot of the time?

According to Jeff Bezos, people who often change their mind tend to be right a lot of the time.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. It's important to get **significant** decisions correct.

2. Indecisiveness is a personality **trait**.

3. It's good to be able to **change** your mind.

4. It's not always easy to **come** to a decision.

5. Looking at things from different **perspectives** can help us make good decisions.