

Morally Good or Morally Suspect?

For each situation, determine whether the action itself is good, neutral, or bad; whether the intent is good; and whether the circumstances keep the person who is considering the action from acting freely.

1. Because you haven't had time to write your paper and it is late, you are wondering whether to download a paper from the Internet to hand in tomorrow as your own.

Action itself: Good Neutral Wrong
Intent: Good Not good
Circumstances: Free to decide Not free to decide

2. Because of an emergency, your parents need you to babysit on a night that you are scheduled to work. You are afraid you will be fired if you tell your boss the real reason you cannot work, and are wondering if you should just call in sick.

Action itself: Good Neutral Wrong
Intent: Good Not good
Circumstances: Free to decide Not free to decide

3. Your school district has a policy forbidding school athletes from taking performance-enhancing drugs. Several of your teammates have been taking some "supplements" that they claim are legal and safe, but they won't tell you where they got them. These teammates do seem like they are getting bigger and stronger, and you are wondering if you should try taking the supplements too.

Action itself: Good Neutral Wrong
Intent: Good Not good
Circumstances: Free to decide Not free to decide

4. A friend of yours has been talking about suicide and is not answering her cell phone. Your parents have told you never to drive the family car without their permission. But you are so afraid for your friend's safety that you are wondering whether to take the family car and drive over to check on your friend, even though your parents are out and not answering their phone.

Action itself: Good Neutral Wrong
Intent: Good Not good
Circumstances: Free to decide Not free to decide

5. You are wondering whether to make a copy of a note that you saw at work in a local market without your manager's permission. Because the manager heard a rumor that your father is passing bad checks, the note tells cashiers not to accept any checks from him. You know your dad is honest, and you want to show him a copy of the note so that he knows what is going on.

Action itself: Good Neutral Wrong
Intent: Good Not good
Circumstances: Free to decide Not free to decide

