

Upper Intermediate – Consider the positive and negative aspects of taking risks

A. You have a lot of work at school and you are having problems getting it done. Your history teacher was angry last week because your homework was late and full of mistakes. History is your favourite subject and you want to do well. Tomorrow, you have to present a very important piece of history homework, but it's really late, you're tired and you haven't finished yet. Last week you found a website with all the information you need for the homework. You could just copy from the website and get a brilliant mark for the homework – the teacher probably won't notice. But you know cheating is not acceptable and you would be in trouble if you were caught.

B. You are taking part in a tennis tournament and have managed to reach the finals. You are playing against a very strong player. During practice sessions you are the best player but you get nervous in matches. Today a coach / talent spotter is watching the match. He is going to choose a player for a place at his sports school. You really want to go to this school. You can't decide what will give a better impression - playing carefully and maybe winning or really being daring on the court and looking brilliant. The prize money for winning the tournament is 2,000 euros. It's a lot of money and you'd love to have that AND the place at the school.

C. You and your friend have just been to see a film at the cinema. It's late and you are in a part of the city that is a long way from home. You missed the last bus and you don't have money for a taxi because you spent your money on cinema tickets and popcorn. Your parents don't know you went to the cinema. They think you are at your friend's house. When you asked to go to the cinema they said no because it was too late and too far away. You went without telling them. Now you are in trouble. You either have to walk all the way home through a dangerous part of the city or call your parents and say where you are.

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Cut out cards

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Reflection Point

Taking risks is necessary if you want to achieve things. However, before taking a risk, always think about the possible consequences to be sure that it's worth taking.