

**Describe an important decision that you made (重要的决定)**

**You should say:**

**What the decision was**

**How you made your decision**

**What the results of the decisions were**

**And explain why it was important.**

**知识点:**

- **stay/sit on the fence** (坐在栅栏上, 两边都不去) 保持中立, 避免做抉择
- **in two minds** 犹豫不决
- **I'm torn.** 被撕扯, 矛盾状态

**I'm torn between A and B.**

- **I'm struggling with...** 挣扎矛盾于
- **take the back seat** 退居二线, 处于次要地位, 不主导

**I decided to take the back seat, and let my father make the decision.**

- **rush into sth.** 快速做决定

**We shouldn't rush into buying a new house. It's such a big decision to make.**

- **make up one's mind** 下定决心
- **to weigh up sth.** 掂量

**I want to weigh up all the positives and negatives before studying in another country.**

- **sit in judgment (on/over somebody)** 审判, 评头论足

**How can you sit in judgment on somebody you hardly know?**

- **up in the air** 悬而未决

**My promotion is still up in the air.**

- **turn to sb.** 向某人寻求意见与建议
- **do the right thing** 做出了正确的决定
- **make the right/good call**
- **on the same page** 达成一致，达成共识
- **a done deal** 已经决定，不再反悔

### 素材一：

Last year, I made a very important decision of breaking up with my boyfriend. Now he's my ex-boyfriend, and, come to think of it, it was the right thing to do.

We had been together for about three years, and during that period of time, I was in two minds all the time. On one hand, he was funny and charming. He could really make me laugh. I loved his sense of humour and his charisma. On the other hand, he was a control freak. He always wanted me to listen to him, and say yes to him. He really put a lot of pressure on me. I mean, I'm an independent woman with an independent mind, so I couldn't just blindly follow his commands (跟随他的指令), like a slave. He was very bossy (霸道的) and macho (大男子主义的).

I was torn between leaving and staying. I didn't want to rush into the decision, so I waited long enough, because I wanted to give it a chance. After being together for three years, I was very unhappy, when I saw myself gradually losing myself (失去自我) and becoming a "boyfriend pleaser" (男友讨好者) and put his needs before mine (把他的需求放在我自己之前), I knew I should make up my mind (下定决心). I told him about my decision. It wasn't easy for me. I was crying and having a meltdown (崩溃) when I saw him for the last time. And he refused to take it. We were not on the same page at all.

But I knew it was a done deal. I didn't give him any chances to talk to me. And eventually, after 6 months, he gave up and disappeared in my world.

Now, I'm free like a bird and feeling so much better without him. Everything is water under the bridge (事情都过去了) . Even though I still miss him occasionally, I know it will all be over one day. Time will heal everything. It was a tough decision to make, but it was the right thing to do.

So yeh, that was the important decision, thank you!

## 素材二：

So, the important decision I made recently was studying abroad.

I made the decision last year. At that time, I was about to graduate from my university in China. And, to be honest, I wasn't very happy with my options. I could start finding a job, but I wasn't ready to start working yet. I could apply to graduate schools in China, but I felt I was missing out on something (错过一些事儿) . I was missing out on the opportunity to see more things and fulfill more potential (实现潜力) .

I'd had the idea of studying abroad since long time ago, but I was scared. I was scared of living in another country just by myself, and also, I wasn't confident with my English. I was weighing up all the positives and negatives of living abroad. I was in two minds, very indecisive (犹豫不决) .

I was sitting on the fence for months until I talked to my cousin. She changed my mind.

I turned to her for some advice as she's currently studying in the UK. And She told me studying abroad was the best decision she's made. She's been learning and growing so much ever since she started her new life in the UK. She's much more independent, experienced and competent (有能力的) . After talking to her, I made up my mind to study abroad. And now, I'm very happy with my decision. I've been studying English every day, and busy preparing for my school applications. I'm feeling excited, determined and hopeful. I'm really happy with the result.

It wasn't an easy decision to make but I'm glad I made the right choice. Thank you!

(如果已经出了国的宝宝就把当前的结果改一下)

### Part3:

1. Do you think children sometimes have to make important decisions?

I root for (支持) giving the opportunity to children to make important decisions themselves. I believe they need to learn to take accountability and ownership (承担责任和主人翁精神) of the things they do and the decisions they make. They need collect data (收集数据), analyze information (分析信息) prior to (在.....之前) the decision-making, and also be willing to accept the consequences afterwards (接受事后的结局), to be able to learn from their mistakes. However, it doesn't mean that (并不代表) parents should just stand aside and do nothing (站在一旁, 啥事不做). The role that parents are playing is providing guidance (提供指导), resource and support (资源和支持). (原因, 转折)

2. What important decisions do teenagers need to make after graduation?

After graduation, teenagers need to decide whether to continue their education (继续学习), or take a gap year (gap 一年), or find a job, basically important decisions that will shape their future (塑造未来).

3. Who can children turn to for help when making a decision?

Children, especially younger children will turn to their parents for advice. Their parents are their support systems (支持体系) and can help them weigh out all the pros and cons (掂量所有的优缺点). And then, sometimes children also go to their teachers for help, especially if it's a decision related to their education. When children become older, they seek advice from their peers (同伴) as they are the same age (同龄) and can understand each other better. I think it's important for children to feel supported and get the guidance and resource they need from their trusted ones (信任的人). (分群体讨论)

**4. Do you think advertisements can influence our decisions when shopping? (两个版本)**

① **Depends on the quality of the ad. A really well-designed and well-crafted/well-made ad (一个精心设计、制作精良的广告) can immediately draw people in / grab people's attention (吸引注意力) and persuade people to buy. On the other hand, a poorly made ad with a confusing or unconvincing message (信息混乱、没有说服力) is unlikely to touch people's hearts (触动心弦) or make an impression on them (留下印象).** (分情况讨论)

② **It's a personal thing. Some individuals are more impressionable/susceptible (容易受影响的) to the messages delivered in ads. They lose their rationality (失去理智) when they see a juicy and yummy ad (“美味多汁”的好看的广告) in front of them, especially when there's a big promotion (有大促销). They just can't wait to jump on the bandwagon (跟风、随大流). Meanwhile some other people are less swayed/influenced (被影响) by ads. They are self-collected (自持力很强) and have critical thinking skills. they don't shop impulsively (冲动地消费) just because they like the ad. People are very different.** (分群体讨论)

**5. Do you think the influence of advertising is good?**

**I'm not sure. It's hard to say. On one hand, advertising can inform (提供信息) us about new products, new promotions and new services that we may find useful, in that case, it can make our lives better. On the other hand, it can cause over-consumerism (带来过度消费). We get stimulation constantly and we just want to keep buying and buying more. Another thing is, some advertisements contain misleading, exaggerated or fake claims (错位引导、夸张的甚至虚假的声称). That can really hurt our lives. In all, being able to keep our rationality, using our critical thinking skills when making decision is key (至关重要的). (分头讨论)**

6. How can people usually make an important decision?

Uhm, people usually would start form gathering enough information to support their decision-making process. Analyze all the options, and then compare them, and weigh up the pros and cons. And then, they might seek help and advice from the outside world, like turn to their parents, friends, people who have had similar experience, expert, even netizens (网民 net+citizen=netizen) online, haha. And finally, they will go back to their own mind, their value system, their priorities in life. Some people are more rational, and some are more impulsive and mainly listen to their gut feelings (直觉大感觉). Yeh, something like that.

(2022 年考到了类似主题，当时的 **part3** (有时间可以看一下，提升词汇量))

1.What decisions do people usually make in their daily lives?

Well, we make hundreds and thousands of decisions every day. Some are more on the subconscious level, like, going to the washroom, scratching your head, drinking water, thing like that. Some are on the conscious level, for example, what to eat for lunch, for dinner, who to meet after school, after work, when to go to bed, things like that. (分类讨论)

2.Which is easier, making a decision by yourself or after a group discussion?

-For me, I love making decisions on my own. Many people say that group decision-making is better because there'll be more information involved. An individual cannot have all the information. And additionally, there will be a variety in views and insights after a group discussion. But based on my personal experience, making a decision alone is way easier than making a group decision. Group decision-making sounds nice, but in the reality, it always ends up chaotic and directionless. The more voices involved, the more difficult it is to make a call (最终做出决定，拍板儿).

Therefore, making decisions alone is more effective and efficient. (主流观点+自己观点)

- I love group decisions. It's so much easier to come up with a mutual decision together. I'm not a very strong-minded person. Sometimes I'm very indecisive. And sometime it's impossible for me to take every aspect

into consideration. People always say that “together is better than alone”.  
I can't agree more (不能够更同意) . Group discussions can involve more voices and perspectives into decision-making. The decision made in the group is fully and carefully weighed by everyone. (主流观点+自己观点)

### 3. Why are many young people unwilling to follow their parents' advice?

I guess, first, young people are at the age where they want to be more independent; they want to explore things and learn their life lessons on their own. Therefore, they tend to be very rebellious (叛逆的) and always want to say no to their parents' advice; and next, I do think there're generation gaps between the young and the old. It's a natural thing as they grow up in different environment and cultures. So, it's not that easy for the two generations to agree to disagree. They think in different ways, and do things in different manners. (罗列原因)

### 4. Why would middle-aged people tend to second-guess their own decisions?

Because when people get older, they often value things differently. They don't necessarily agree with the things they used to believe in. That's why they have a second thought. For example, some young people choose to drop out (退学) and just live in the moment, become a surfer, a waitress, a leader singer in a band. But years later, they realize that they need to be able to pay the bills and provide for their family. And that's when they start to question their own decisions. That's the famous “middle-age crisis” (中年危机) . (原因+举例子)