

CHOICES

Scenario 1

The shopping cart

Your friend Gary says, “Look. Someone’s left a shopping cart out on the road. Let’s race down the hill!”

He points down the slope.

At the bottom, about 50 yards away, is a public park with bushes, trees and a small pond.

“Look, it’ll be fun. You jump in. I’ll run along beside. Don’t worry. What could possibly go wrong?”

What should you do?

A You decide to give it a go.

What next?

You hop in and grab the metal sides of the cart. Gary gives the cart a push and it speeds off down the hill. You hold on.

It goes faster and faster.

Gary calls out, “I can’t keep up. Jump out!”

But the cart is now going so fast that you can’t get out. You cling on, yelling at Gary. He is puffing along behind you, unable to do anything. The cart rushes down the hill. It comes to the park.

It strikes a rock. It stops suddenly. There is an awful silence.

You are thrown through the air. You land on your arm. It makes a loud snap. You slither down the grass and drop into the water.

"Help!" you cry. "Call an ambulance."

Think about it

Often we are coaxed by others to do something we usually wouldn't do. It can be called peer pressure, or just going along blindly with others.

It's important to make our own decisions. It's too easy to think that all will work out well in a situation we have never experienced before. A lot of accidents come from not thinking beyond the moment.

Do you want to look at another dangerous scenario? (Go to 15)

Do you want to try the scenario again? (Go to 1)

B You decide that it's too dangerous and suggest something else.

What next?

"Gary, there's no way I can control the cart. Let's take a ride on something we can steer."

You lead him down the hill. Standing by the park are two electric scooters. Each has a helmet.

"Get out your credit card and tap on. Then we can zoom around without risking our necks."

Gary mutters. But he does what you say. Within minutes you are riding around the paths in the park having a great time.

At the end of the ride, Gary says, "Amazing. Good idea. I wonder what would have happened if we had tried the cart?"

Think about it

Taking some risks is unavoidable. But we have to *choose* the risks. Anything that endangers our life or hurts us mentally has to be in the no go zone. Remember, it's easy to imagine the best outcome and not prepare for the worst.

Do you want to look at another scenario in which you are influenced by friends? (Go to 2)

Do you want to try the scenario again? (Go to 1)