



Compromising is good when

- you need a quick solution and can both give up something.
- you both want exactly same thing and it can be divided up or shared.
- you are willing to let chance decide it (flip a coin...).
- you have tried to satisfy each one completely and it isn't possible (or would take too long).

“Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him.”
—Matt. 5:25 (NRSV)

Compromising is not good when

- you might work a little longer and find a solution that pleases each one better.

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.”
—Matt. 7:12 (NRSV)



Forcing is good when

- you need to do something quickly.
- your conscience tells you to do or not to do something that displeases others.
- you know you are right and it is important to you that the others recognize that.

“[The high priest said] ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name [of Jesus]’.... But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority.’”
—Acts 5:27-29 (NRSV)

Forcing is not good when

- you use it often with people you care about or will need to spend time with in the future.
- you want people to feel they can discuss and disagree with you openly.

“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
—Lev. 19:18 (NRSV)



Problem solving is good when

- you have the time and want to work something out that satisfies all sides.
- you care about the other person(s) and also feel strongly about the issue.
- you want to get thoughts and feelings out on the table and deal with them, so they don't cause problems later.

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits.... and a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”
—James 3:17-18 (NRSV)

Problem solving is not good when

- you don't care that much about the issue.
- you need to do something quickly. (“Fire! Everybody out!”)

“...clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other.”
—Col. 3:12-13 (GNB)



Avoiding is good when

- you don't care that much about the issue.
- you (or someone else) are very angry and need time to cool off before discussing the issue.
- you are in a dangerous situation and don't need to be there.

“Do everything possible on your part to live at peace with everybody.”
—Rom. 12:18 (GNB)

Avoiding is not good when

- you rarely want to deal with the conflicts in your life.
- you care about an issue but are afraid to speak up.
- you keep being bothered by a disagreement with someone you care about.

“Let ... us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another.”
—Eph. 4:25 (NRSV)



Giving in is good when

- you are, or were, wrong about something.
- you care more about the other person than you do about the issue.

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way.”
—1 Cor. 13:4-5 (NRSV)

Giving in is not good when

- it happens a lot and you wish you could speak up more often.

“Instead, by speaking the truth in ... love, we must grow up in every way to Christ, who is the head.”
—Eph. 4:15 (GNB)





Ways to Approach CONFLICT



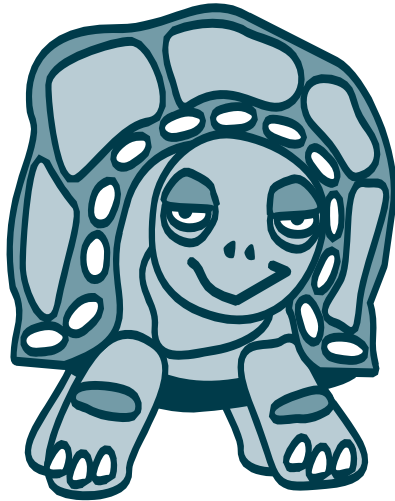
Giving in

I give in

“I don’t care that much;
have it your way.”



Ways to Approach CONFLICT



Avoiding

I leave

“I’d rather not deal with
it now.”



Ways to Approach CONFLICT



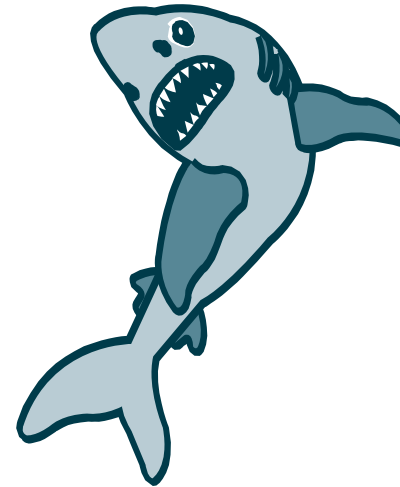
Problem solving

We both win

“Two heads are better
than one.”



Ways to Approach CONFLICT



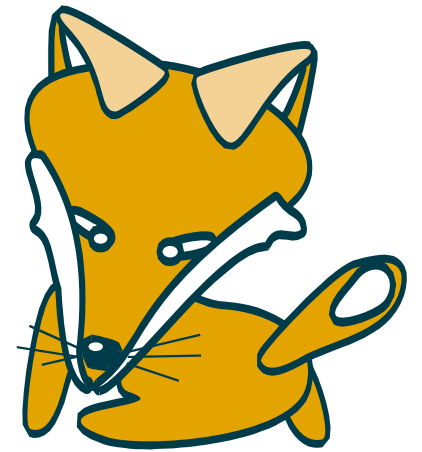
Forcing

I take charge

“Might makes right.”



Ways to Approach CONFLICT



Compromising

We meet half-way

“Let’s split the difference.”

