



Level: A2

Focus: Grammar - verbs followed by to + infinitive

Theme: Personality

Activity: Doing a personality test

HEADS OR HEARTS

This is a sample class activity from lesson 10A of *English Result Pre-Intermediate* by Hancock and McDonald (Oxford University Press 2008). Use this activity in a lesson on the theme of personality, or when you are teaching the structure verb followed by to + infinitive.

PROCEDURE

1. Give out the worksheet and ask students where they might find a text of this kind:
 - a. in a Sunday magazine?
 - b. in a psychology text book?
 - c. in a newspaper?
2. Ask students what they think is the approximate age of the intended reader: 10-17? 18-24? 25 - 40? Over 40?
Ask them to give reasons. (probably 18-24 because of reference to future careers etc)
3. Elicit or give the meaning of the following phrases from the text:
tell a white lie
go with your feelings
cheat in an exam
change his mind
cross your fingers and hope for the best
4. Ask students to do the personality text, choosing the best answer for them from options a-d.
5. Reveal the key:
 - If they have chosen more answers a and b, they 'think from the head'.
 - If they have chosen more answers c and d, they 'think from the heart'.
6. Ask students to compare their results with another student and say if they agree with the result.
7. Use the text to focus on language. Ask students to look at the verbs in the box below the text and underline these verbs in the text. Then get them to answer the questions about the verbs.

☹ Heads or Hearts? ♥

1. Your friend is planning to marry someone you don't like.

- You decide to tell your friend what you think.
- You try to say what you think, but in a nice way.
- You don't say what you really think. You prefer to tell a "white lie".
- You say nothing. You don't want to hurt your friend's feelings.

2. Your friend hopes to become a singer but you don't think she can sing well.

- You want to help her, so you tell her what you think.
- You try to suggest other careers you think will be better for her.
- You pretend to like her singing.
- You don't want to make her angry so you don't say what you think.

3. You are planning to rent a flat. You have seen two places you like.

- You try to be objective. Which flat will be better for your lifestyle?
- You decide to write a list of their good and bad points and compare them.
- You try to go with your feelings.
- You try to imagine what your family and friends will think of the two flats.

4. Your friend is planning to cheat in an exam, and he wants you to help. You think it is wrong.

- You refuse to help and you tell him why.
- You don't refuse to help, but you try to make your friend change his mind.
- You agree to help but you say what you think.
- You agree to help. He's your friend and he knows what he's doing.

5. You are going away for two weeks and your friend asks to stay in your flat. You don't want her to stay there.

- You refuse to let her stay and you tell her why.
- You say you'd like to let her stay, but you think of a reason why she can't.
- You promise to think about it and hope she'll forget.
- You agree to let her stay, cross your fingers and hope for the best.

6. You are out with friends and they disagree about something. Everybody starts to get angry.

- You try to talk about the problem calmly.
- You try to find an answer to the problem.
- You try to make everybody happy.
- You try to change the topic of conversation.

Which verbs ...

- have 2 syllables?
- have stress on the 2nd syllable?
- are often followed by to + infinitive?
- are similar in your language?

agree compare decide forget hope imagine plan prefer pretend promise suggest refuse try want
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