Lesson 02 Take Your Pick

▶ About two difficult aspects of our lives: choices / decisions and priorities

▶ Word scramble quiz

1 Language points

1) to make a choice/decision about…// a (adj) choice/decision to make

2) to consider (obj) to be (adj)

3) to value (obj) highly / to place (a lot of) importance on (obj)

4) to put (obj) first / to make (obj) a priority

5) to sacrifice (obj) / to do without (obj)

6) a Catch 22

7) to strike a balance between… / to balance (obj.) and (obj.) else

8) BONUS- to take a back seat

① to make a choice/decision about…// a (adj) choice/decision to make

- *choice* and *decision* interchangeable
- *make* with *choice* or *decision* nouns
- sounds stronger with a sense of finality

▶ Choosing between graduate school and finding a job is a really tough decision to make.

▶ John has to make a choice about which T.V. to buy or he'll be in the electronics store all day.

② to consider (obj) to be (adj)

- possible to use 'to be'
- *consider*- to think carefully about in order to make a choice; regard, suppose, pay attention to

▶ I personally consider Star Wars Episode 6 to be the most exciting.

▶ Min-seong considered the high rent of the apartment and wondered if it was worth it.

③ to value (obj) highly / to place (a lot of) importance on (obj)

- now discussing priorities
- strong expressions usually for serious life issues

▶ Nicole values education highly when it comes to building her career, whereas Stacy places a lot of importance on gaining work experience.

④ to put (obj) first / to make (obj) a priority

- discussing priorities
- often use 'top' with priority

▶ Yoon-ju always puts her family first.

▶ In-young has made this project her top priority.

⑤ to sacrifice (obj) / to do without (obj)

- to give up reluctantly- difficult decisions
- strange use of 'do'

▶ Ju-won sacrificed her friendships to follow her dreams in Australia.

▶ I guess I'll have to do without clubbing if I want to exercise more on the weekend.

⑥ a Catch 22

- special idiom from a famous book
- can't win either way

▶ I've got a real Catch 22 on my hands. My son's graduation and my boss's wedding are on the same day!

▶ Deciding whether or not to spend the money on graduate school is a real Catch 22. I can't move on with my career without a Master's, but I can't afford to be out of work for so long!

⑦ to strike a balance between… / to balance (obj.) and (obj.) else

- relates to work/life balance choices and priorities
- can also use 'find'

▶ College kids often find it difficult to balance their social life and their studies.

▶ Moon-sun has trouble striking a balance between work and family life.

⑧ **BONUS! - to take a back seat to (obj)**

- common idiom
- means to be lower in priority

▶ When I failed that exam, I realized that my social life would have to take a back seat to my studies.

▶ As soon as Young-gil and Gyoung-hwa got pregnant, they realized that everything else in their life would take a back seat financially.

2 Apply to the book

▶ **Page 8, dialogue comprehension**

What are the pros and cons of having children when you are older?

▶ **Sample answers**

If you *make the decision* to wait until you're older, you can put your career first while you're in your twenties.

If you have kids when you're younger, you'll have *to sacrifice* travel and fun while you still have the energy.

▶ **Page 11, activity B**

What are the key elements in a successful life?

▶ **Sample answers**

I personally *consider* diligence *to be* the most important factor if you want to have a successful life.

If you're in the hospitality industry, it's essential *to place a lot of importance on* patience if you want to succeed.

For me, strongly *valuing* independence from my parents has defined my success.

▶ **Pages 11-12, activity C**

Discuss Naomi's predicament: work or family?

▶ **Sample answer**

For Naomi it's a bit of *a Catch 22*. If she commits herself to her work again, her kids will have *to take a backseat*.

If she stays at home as a homemaker, she'll always feel unsatisfied and wish she could continue her career.

▶ **Pages 10-11, activity A**

Milestones- What are some of the challenges people face in their twenties, thirties, forties, etc.?

▶ **Sample answers**

In your twenties, you have *to strike a balance between* social life *and* your studies, but usually in your thirties, you find yourself balancing work and family life.

For most people in their thirties, they realize that they have *to do without* the financial support of their parents.

▶ **Pages 11-12, activity C**

Overall, who is most content with their life?

▶ **Sample statements**

Carrie has *made* her religious devotion *a* top *priority* in her life. She's becoming a nun!

Zeke always puts his career first and now has a good job at a semiconductor company. However, because his love life has *taken a back seat to* his work, I think he's probably lonely.

For Max, dropping out of high school early wasn't a hard *decision to make*. As long as he placed a high value on his knowledge and intelligence, he knew he would succeed.

3 Review quiz

#1.

Q. What will you focus on in the next five years?

A. For me, I _____.

work experience / make / have to / a choice / education. / between / and

have to make a choice between work experience and education

#2.

Q. What is most important to you right now in your life?

A. At this point in my life, I _____.

priority / finishing graduate school / top / make / a

make finishing graduate school a top priority

#3.

Q. How do you feel about your work / life balance?

A. It's quite difficult because I'm trying to _____.

a balance / time with my kids / strike / between / working on weekends. / and

strike a balance between time with my kids and working on weekends