

Session 9

MAKING DECISIONS – Steps 3 & 4 of Do It!

ACTION PLAN GOAL 6: You will learn to make decisions using **DO IT!**



Last session you went through steps 1 and 2 in the **DO IT!** process to begin to figure out where you might want to live.

Define your problem

Outline your options

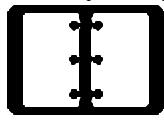
Identify the outcome of each option

Take action

! Get excited

Step 1 was **Define** your problem.

Step 2 was **Outline** your options.



Pull out your summary sheet from last time if you don't remember what you did.

Step 3 is **Identify** the outcome of each option.


We've talked about school outcomes a lot. That is what you expect to happen. Well, choice making has outcomes, too.

When you make a choice, you expect something to happen. Like, if you choose Fudge Brownie® ice cream, the outcome you expect is to get Fudge Brownie® ice cream. Actually the outcome you really

expect is to enjoy eating your Fudge Brownie® ice cream!

Each option on your list would have outcomes if you chose that option. You should think about what the outcomes would be.

If the outcome doesn't seem worth it, or doesn't make sense, you can throw that

option into the aardvark  pile – the things that just don't fit what you want.

Let's look at my list of apartments I made when I was apartment hunting.

Remember, I visited the apartment locators and they told me about six apartment complexes that might be good for me to look at?

Then, each of those apartment complexes became options for me to consider.

List for my living options

1. TimberCreek Apartments

1234 Woody Road

2. BabblingBrook Apartments

1098 River Run

3. ForestGlen Apartments

1818 Wildebeast Way

4. TimberForest Apartments

8282 Nottingham Circle

5. HavensRest Apartments

15 West South Street

Once I made my list, I needed to identify the outcomes of choosing each option. There were some things I needed to look at:

- o Could I afford to move there?
- o Could I have a roommate live with me?
- o Could I get to the places I needed to go without too much hassle?

How could I start looking at these outcomes?

You guessed it. Get more information. I looked in the phone book and got the phone numbers.

I needed to talk to someone at each of these places. I decided that I should ask the same questions to each place.

- a. How much do apartments cost?
- b. Are there any two bedroom apartments?
- c. Where are you located?

The answers to these questions could give me the information I needed to make my decision. To make it easier to remember, I added these questions to my list.

Then I got out the telephone book and looked up the telephone numbers for each apartment complex. I added these to my list, too.



I phoned and asked for the manager or someone who could give me information about some apartments. At each apartment, I asked the questions and wrote down the information.

Take a look at some of the answers I got!

List for my living options

1. TimberCreek Apartments

1234 Woody Road

- a. Cost: \$450 a month
- b. Two bedroom: yes
- c. Location: near downtown

2. BabblingBrook Apartments

1098 River Run

- a. Cost: \$700 a month
- b. Two bedroom: yes
- c. Location: near downtown

3. ForestGlen Apartments

1818 Wildebeast Way

- a. Cost: \$425 a month
- b. Two bedroom: yes, but none available
- c. Location: near downtown

4. TimberForest Apartments

8282 Nottingham Circle

- a. Cost: \$440 a month
- b. Two bedroom: no
- c. Location: near downtown

5. HavensRest Apartments


15 West South Street

- a. Cost: \$450 a month
- b. Two bedroom: yes
- c. Location: 15 miles from downtown

It's a good thing I got this information before I made the trip out to all of these places. Look at my questions. First, I needed to know if I could afford to live there. The **BabblingBrook Apartments** cost \$250 more than any other apartment. The outcome if I chose those apartments would be that I couldn't pay for the apartment and I would have to move back home!


Into the aardvark  pile – it just doesn't fit what I want!

My second question was whether I could

live with a roommate.  That would mean I needed a two bedroom apartment.


When I called, I found out that **TimberForest Apartments** doesn't even have two bedroom apartments.

The outcome if I chose them was that I couldn't have a roommate. That meant I might not be able to afford the apartment. Plus, I didn't want to live alone.

Into the aardvark  pile – it just doesn't fit what I want!

Third, I needed to know where they were so I would know if I could get to the places I need to go. I work downtown and my family lives near there. Also, the bus line runs downtown.

I looked at my list and the **HavensRest Apartments** are 15 miles from downtown. The outcome if I had chosen this option was that I would have a harder time getting to work and seeing my family. I might have a problem being late for work.

Into the aardvark  pile – it just doesn't fit what I want!

OK. That left two complexes. They were the right price, had 2 bedroom apartments and were near downtown.

Was I finished?

Well, no. I narrowed my choice down to two options. Now I needed to get more information about those two.

To get more information, I went to visit

each apartment complex. 

I also rewrote my list with the options I had left, so I could write down what I learned.

Take a look at the list.

List for my living options

1. TimberCreek Apartments

1234 Woody Road

- a. Cost: \$450 a month
- b. Two bedroom: yes
- c. Location: near downtown

Like the way it looks!
1st, 2nd and 3rd floor apartments.
Only 3rd floor have fireplace.
2 bedroom apartments on each floor.
Several available now.
1 month rent deposit. 2 Year lease.
Swimming pool. Game room.
4 Laundry rooms.

2. ForestGlen Apartments

1818 Wildebeast Way

- a. Cost: \$425 a month
- b. Two bedroom: yes, but none available
- c. Location: near downtown

1st and 2nd floor apartments all filled,
don't know when one will open up.
1 month rent deposit. 1 year lease.
No swimming pool. Game room.
2 laundry rooms.

I liked both places.

TimberCreek was a little more expensive, but I can get a 2 year lease, so they couldn't raise my rent for two years. They have lots of apartments available. I really

liked the third floor apartments with a fireplace.

If I chose this option, I would have to pay a little more, but I could probably afford it.

ForestGlen was nice too, and they were cheaper. But they didn't have a swimming pool and only had 2 laundry rooms. Also, they had 2 bedroom units, but none of them were ready to move into.

If I chose this option, I would save a little money, but wouldn't be able to swim in the summer and might have to carry my laundry across the complex. Plus, I couldn't be sure there will be a 2 bedroom available when I was ready to move.

What did I decide to do?

Well, that's the 4th step in **DO IT!**

Take action.

I had all the information I needed to choose one of my options. I had done my homework and it was time to **T**ake action!

Well, that was easy enough. I decided I am going to get on the phone and call the manager at the **TimberCreek Apartments** and tell her I want a 2 bedroom apartment on the third floor.

So now I can do the last thing in **DO IT!**

! Get excited

Making a decision usually takes a while and means a lot of work. But now I have an apartment I think I can be happy with. I think my outcome will be good.

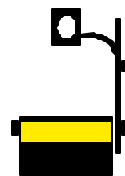
Now, I just need to decide how to get furniture. And decide on a roommate. And decide when I'm going to move....

That's another thing about decisions...they never seem to end. One good decision leads to another, I always say!



All right. So far, I've been doing all the work. Now it's your turn. Go back to the "**O**utline your options" sheet you filled out last time. Take the rest of the time to look at some of the outcomes that go along with each option. You can use the sheet called "**I**dentify the outcomes" at the end of the lesson plan to help you think about these. This may be a good time to ask your coach to give you a hand. We're not going to really do the last step, "**T**ake action!" 'cause this is just practice.


Go ahead. What have you got to lose?



Okay. Let's look at what you've covered this session.

- ☒ You learned that step 3 in the decision making process was to identify the o_____ of each option you selected.



- ☑ You saw that some options don't work out very well when you look at them and

you can t_____ them out.  They just don't fit what I want!

- ☑ You learned that getting i_____ was an important part of identifying possible outcomes.
- ☑ You learned that the last step in decision making was to c_____ one of your options.
- ☑ You learned that one good decision usually l_____ to another decision.



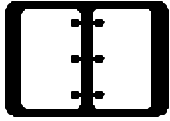
Before the next session, you should have:

-  Finished your Identify the Outcomes worksheet.
-  Thought about how many options are available for you.

Okay. So that's it for now.



Later.



Session 9 Summary Sheet - Steps 3 & 4 of Do It!

WHOSE FUTURE GOAL 6: You will learn to make decisions using **DO IT!**

- ☒ You learned that step 3 in the decision making process was to identify the outcome of each option you selected.
- ☒ You saw that some options don't work out very well when you look at them and you can throw them out.
- ☒ You learned that getting information was an important part of identifying possible outcomes.
- ☒ You learned that the last step in decision-making was to choose one of your options.
- ☒ You learned that one good decision usually leads to another.

Identify the outcomes

What are some outcomes of where you want to live? (For example, if you chose “in a different city,” you will need to move all your stuff to that city. How will you do that?) What will you

need to do that?



What are some outcomes of who you want to live with?



What are some outcomes of what kind of place you want to live in?

What are some outcomes of how you will pay for where you live?

What are some outcomes of what you chose to be near?