

MORAL DILEMMAS

Here are some examples of actions that might be considered immoral. Say how bad you think each case is by giving it a score of 1-5 (1 = not bad at all, 5= heinous!), and if you assign a value greater than 1, say why you regard the action as immoral.

1. Avon downloads a movie from the internet illegally. He is too poor to pay full price for the movie, and he wouldn't have downloaded it if he could have afforded to buy it.
2. Kima realizes that her apartment gives her a great view of her neighbor's lounge, and she also notices that her (very attractive) neighbor often walks around the house naked. Kima decides to start watching her neighbor, and she takes a thrill in seeing her naked without her knowledge.
3. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States government decides to intern all first- and second-generation Japanese Americans, in case they provided information or material aid to the Empire of Japan. The camps in which they are interned provide them with basic food, shelter, and medical assistance, but they are not free to leave.
4. A truck driver is driving through a suburban neighborhood when a child suddenly runs in front of his vehicle. The child is hit and suffers severe injuries, from which she subsequently dies. The driver was sober and not exceeding the speed limit, nor could he have swerved to avoid the child.
5. Bodie, a 15 year old boy, hates a teacher at his school because he believes she is gay. He therefore decides to vandalize a wall at the school with obscene homophobic graffiti mentioning her by name. However, unknown to Bodie, the wall is already scheduled to be painted the following morning. His graffiti is painted over. The work crew do not even notice the graffiti, nor does anyone else at the school ever find out about it.
6. Marlo finds a recently deceased dog in the street. He takes the dog's lifeless body home, and 'tortures' it, putting pins in its eyes and cutting off its paws. He takes pleasure in doing so, even though he wishes it was still alive.
7. Omar and DiAngelo are brothers in their 40s. While on holiday together, they discover that they both have incestuous fantasies about the other, and so they have sex. The experience is mutually enjoyable and satisfying for both, but they decide not to talk about it again or tell anyone else about it in case it upsets anyone. In the long run, it improves their fraternal relationship.
8. McNulty is having an affair with a work colleague. His wife knows nothing about it. After a few months, the affair naturally peters out, and McNulty decides not to tell his wife. For the rest of his life, he remains faithful, and he and his wife are happily married. He never tells her about the affair.