

Worksheet #2

Separate Positions from Interests Quiz

Activity: This activity will help you learn the difference between a position (which is a stand that someone takes) and an interest (which is a deeper want or desire).

Read the following statements and decide whether you think the statement is a position or interest. On the blank line beside each statement, place a “P” for position or an “I” for interest, then check the answers to see how you did.

1. ___ I want you to close the screen door when you come in.
2. ___ I am allergic to bee stings and I want to avoid having an allergic reaction.
3. ___ Depending on others makes me uncomfortable.
4. ___ I expect your input on the report by 5 pm.
5. ___ I won't give you the car unless you take responsibility for washing it.
6. ___ I believe in right and wrong, and this situation is just plain wrong.
7. ___ Trim your trees or I'm going to call the city.
8. ___ I don't feel safe when trees touch electrical wires.
9. ___ I like to keep a certain amount of money in the bank even if I've already paid all my bills.
10. ___ I've decided to hire a painter to paint the outside of our house this month.
11. ___ Move your car away from the front of my house.
12. ___ I can never find parking close to home and it's difficult for grandma to walk very far.

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Answers to Separate Positions from Interests Quiz

1. Position—A specific request or demand to take action.
2. Interest— A deep want. For example, it could be the reason behind why someone would want the screen door shut in example 1.
3. Interest—A fear of losing control over a situation.
4. Position—A specific demand to contribute to the report on time.
5. Position—An ultimatum and specific demand to wash the car.
6. Position—Taking a stand on one’s beliefs.
7. Position—A demand for action or else.
8. Interest—This could be the reason behind why someone might demand that their neighbour’s trees be cut.
9. Interest—A general statement of someone’s financial comfort level.
10. Position—A course of action.
11. Position—A specific request or demand for someone to move their car.
12. Interest—This could be the reason behind someone’s demand for another person to move their car.