

Andrew is a train driver. One day while he is driving an empty train back to the station, the brakes suddenly fail. The train is running fast down a track towards five workmen. If it hits them, the train will kill the five men. But Andrew can push a button to steer the train down a side track where there is only one man standing. Is it permissible for Andrew to push the button?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Barbara is a surgeon working at a major hospital. One day, she is caring for five young patients who are all dying because of the failure of a different organ. Barbara can save all five patients if she kills one healthy old man who is visiting the hospital for a routine check-up, removes his organs, and distributes them to the dying people. Is it permissible for Barbara to kill the man?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Carl is walking on a footbridge over a train track one day, when he sees an empty train come racing down the track. The train's brakes have failed, and it is heading towards five workmen. If it hits them, the train will kill the five men. But Carl can push a track-switch to steer the train down a side track where there is only one man standing. Is it permissible for Carl to push the switch?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Daniel is walking on a footbridge over a train track one day, when he sees an empty train come racing down the track. The train's breaks have failed, and it is heading towards five workmen. If it hits them, the train will kill the five men. But there is another man on the footbridge that day, wearing a large backpack. Daniel can push the man off the footbridge to slow down the train, killing the one man but saving the five. Is it permissible for Daniel to push the man?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Ernie is cooking for his sick grandmother who adores spinach. Recently there had been incidents of E. coli contamination of bagged spinach leading to a recall of all bagged spinach. Bagged spinach has been restocked at many markets. But some inspections aren't thorough and contaminated batches are still being missed. At the market, Ernie sees that bagged spinach is being carried again. He believes that it's perfectly safe now because of some official-looking information by the spinach. Ernie cooks spinach for his grandmother, and she ends up in the hospital, violently ill. Was it permissible for Ernie to feed his grandmother the spinach?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Frank is cooking for his sick grandmother who adores spinach. Recently there had been incidents of E. coli contamination of bagged spinach leading to a recall of all bagged spinach. Bagged spinach has been restocked at many markets. It is 100% safe to eat and no longer contaminated with E. coli. At the market, Frank sees that bagged spinach is being carried again. He believes that bagged spinach may still be contaminated because he heard on the radio that 25 new cases of E. coli were reported that week. Frank cooks spinach for his grandmother. The meal is healthy and delicious. Was it permissible for Frank to feed his grandmother the spinach?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Gerry is visiting friends of his parents in the middle East. In his host family, roles are strongly divided by gender. The wife does all the cooking, cleaning and housework. After dinner, the husband often leans back and belches towards his wife in the kitchen. He explains that belching is considered a compliment to the cooking, and is socially accepted in this society. Is it permissible for Gerry to also belch after dinner?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

A woman is near death from a special kind of cancer. There is one drug that the doctors think might save her. It is a form of radium that a druggist in the same town recently discovered. The drug is expensive to make, but the druggist is charging more than the drug cost him to make. He paid \$400 for the radium and charges \$4,000 for a dose of the drug. The sick woman's husband, Heinz, went to everyone he knew to borrow the money and tried every legal means, but he could only get together about \$2,000, which is half of what it cost. He told the druggist that his wife was dying, and asked him to sell it cheaper or let him pay later. But the druggist said, "No, I discovered the drug and I'm going to make money from it." So, having tried every legal means, Heinz gets desperate and considers breaking into the man's store to steal the drug for his wife. Is it permissible for Heinz to steal the drug?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Ian is visiting friends of his parents in the middle East. In his host family, roles are strongly divided by gender. The wife does all the cooking, cleaning and housework. After dinner, the husband complains and yells and throws dishes at his wife in the kitchen. He explains that throwing things at women is not a big deal, and is socially accepted in this society. Is it permissible for Ian to also throw plates at the women of the house?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

John is supposed to be Best Man at a friend's wedding in Maine this afternoon. He is carrying the wedding rings with him in New Hampshire, where he has been staying on business. There is one bus a day that goes directly to the coast. John is on his way to the bus station with 15 minutes to spare when he realises that his wallet has been stolen, and with it his bus tickets, his cards and all of his various forms of ID. At the bus station, John tries to convince the officials, and then a couple of fellow travelers, to lend him the money to buy a new bus ticket, but no one will do it. With five minutes to go before the bus's departure, he is sitting on a bench trying desperately to think of a plan. Just then a well-dressed man gets up for a walk, leaving his jacket – with a bus ticket to Maine in the pocket – lying unattended on the bench. In a flash, John knows that the only way he will make it to this wedding on time is if he takes that ticket. The man is clearly well-off and could easily buy himself another one. Is it permissible for John to steal the ticket?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Karl is taking his daily walk near the train tracks when he notices that the train that is approaching is out of control. Karl sees what has happened: the driver of the train saw five million dollars of new railroad equipment lying idle across the tracks and slammed on the brakes, but the brakes failed and the driver fainted. The train is now rushing toward the equipment. It is moving so fast that it will be destroyed. Fortunately, Karl is standing next to a switch, which he can throw, that will turn the train onto a side track, thereby preventing it from destroying the equipment. Unfortunately, there is a man standing on the side track with his back turned. Karl can throw the switch, killing him; or he can refrain from doing this, letting the equipment be destroyed. Is it permissible for Karl to throw the switch?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Luke is taking his daily walk near the train tracks when he notices that the train that is approaching is out of control. Luke sees what has happened: the driver of the train saw a man walking across the tracks and slammed on the brakes, but the brakes failed and the driver fainted. The train is now rushing toward the man. It is moving so fast that he will not be able to get off the track in time. Fortunately, Luke is standing next to the man, whom he can throw off the track out of the path of the train, thereby preventing it from killing the man. Unfortunately, the man is frail and standing with his back turned. Luke can throw the man, injuring him; or he can refrain from doing this, letting the man die. Is it permissible for Luke to throw the man?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible

Mark is taking his daily walk near the train tracks when he notices that the train that is approaching is out of control. Mark sees what has happened: the driver of the train saw five men walking across the tracks and slammed on the brakes, but the brakes failed, and the driver fainted. The train is now rushing toward the five men. It is moving so fast that they will not be able to get off the track in time. Fortunately, Mark is standing next to a switch, which he can throw, that will turn the train onto a side track, thereby preventing it from killing the men. Unfortunately, there is a man on the side track. Mark can throw the switch, killing him; or he can refrain from doing this, letting the men die. Mark then recognizes that the man on the side track is someone who he hates with a passion. "I don't give a damn about saving those five men," Mark thinks to himself, "but this is my chance to kill that bastard." Is it permissible for Mark to throw the switch?

Forbidden 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Permissible