

What is responsibility?

Being responsible means you do the things you need to do for your own and others' well-being. Being responsible helps prevent negative consequences (hurting) and creates positive consequences (helping).

For each situation, answer the questions about whether the person acted responsibly.

1 Sarah is in 5th grade. She is expected to meet her little sister at the front of the school right after school to walk home with her. Sarah's friend wanted her to play on the playground for a minute after school. Before she knew it, 30 minutes had passed.

What was Sarah's responsibility? _____

To meet her sister and walk her home.

Was she being responsible? _____

No, because she played and didn't meet her sister.

What are some possible consequences (results) of her actions?

Her sister might be scared or she might try to walk by herself and that could be dangerous. Sarah's mom may be upset.

2 Carlos was playing soccer at the park with some friends. His mom said to be home by 6:00 for dinner. At 5:55 Carlos' friends wanted to play just one more game, but he knew if he didn't go home then, he wouldn't make it home by 6. Carlos walked home.

What was Carlos' responsibility? _____

To be home by 6:00

Was he being responsible? _____

Yes. He chose to stop playing and go home even though he wanted to play.

What are some possible consequences (results) of his actions?

His parent will be proud of him and will know he can be trusted to go to his friend's house next time. Carlos can be proud of himself for making a good choice.

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3 Beth is supposed to help her grandma do some yardwork on Sunday. It's a rainy day and she really doesn't want to go, but she knows her grandma needs her help. Beth puts on her rain coat and boots and goes out to help her grandma.

What was Beth's responsibility? _____

To help her grandma with yardwork.

Was she being responsible? _____

Yes, She helped her grandma even though it was raining and she didn't want to.

What are some possible consequences (results) of her actions?

Beth's grandma will be happy and grateful that she helped. Beth will feel good about doing the right thing, even though it was hard.

4 Dion got a new bike for his birthday and his parents expected him to take good care of it. Dion laid his bike down in the driveway behind his dad's car and then ran inside to get a snack. Dion's dad was hurrying out and didn't see the bike on the ground behind his car. He backed over it and crushed the wheel.

What was Dion's responsibility? _____

To take good care of his bike.

Was he being responsible? _____

No. He left the bicycle where it could be damaged.

What are some possible consequences (results) of his actions?

He won't be able to ride his bicycle and he'll be sad. His parents may be disappointed or angry. They may have to pay money to fix it.