

# The Trolley Problem

## Situation:

A train is speeding out of control towards something. You have a choice. You can do nothing, or you can pull a lever and the train to change direction and hit something else. What will you choose to do and why?

## How to play:

- ❖ Each player gets a “do nothing” card and a “pull the lever” card.
- ❖ Choose two railway cards at random and place one on each track.
  - The railway cards on page 2 are easy and the ones on page 3 are more challenging.
- ❖ The players think about the two options and secretly decide whether they want to do nothing or pull the lever.
- ❖ At the same time, the players reveal which card they chose.
- ❖ Discuss with the players the reasons for why they made that choice.
- ❖ The people who chose the most popular choice get points.
  - E.g. 3 players chose “Pull the lever” and 2 players chose “Do nothing.” So, the popular choice was “Pull the lever,” therefore those three players get a point each.
- ❖ Also, please award bonus points for good reasons or good English usage during the discussion.

Your best  
friend

A rich person

5 people

5 old people

Your family

4 people

Your teacher

5 lobsters

1 person

1 doctor

1 cat

All of your  
money

Your house

5 sleeping  
people

You

Your pet

1 awake person

The Mona Lisa  
painting

The gun which is  
being pointed at  
your friend

An old person  
who has no  
friends or family

A bus that has a  
killer and their  
family inside

A rare tree  
that can cure  
cancer

The medicine  
which will cure  
you in the future

The only T-rex  
which did not  
become extinct

The mountain  
where many  
gorillas live

A dog who helps  
rescue people

The person who  
has spoken to  
many aliens

A bear who has  
human brain

The person that  
can make  
world peace

An AI robot that  
can do anything  
a human can

A chef who  
cooks dog pies

A flock of  
birds that  
will poo on you

A swarm of  
killer bees that  
are chasing you

A school bus  
which is full of  
happy students

A thief who  
is planning to  
rob your house

The building  
where you used  
go to school

Do nothing

Do nothing

Pull the lever

Do nothing

Do nothing

Pull the lever

Do nothing

Do nothing

Pull the lever

Do nothing

Pull the lever

Pull the lever

Do nothing

Pull the lever

Pull the lever

Do nothing

Pull the lever

Pull the lever

## Trolley Problem Example English

### Simple

I will do nothing because I like my best friend.

友人が好きだから、何もしないだろう。

I will pull the lever because I want to save my teacher.

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I will do nothing because my family is important to me.

### Harder

I would do nothing because this person is more important to humans than that person.

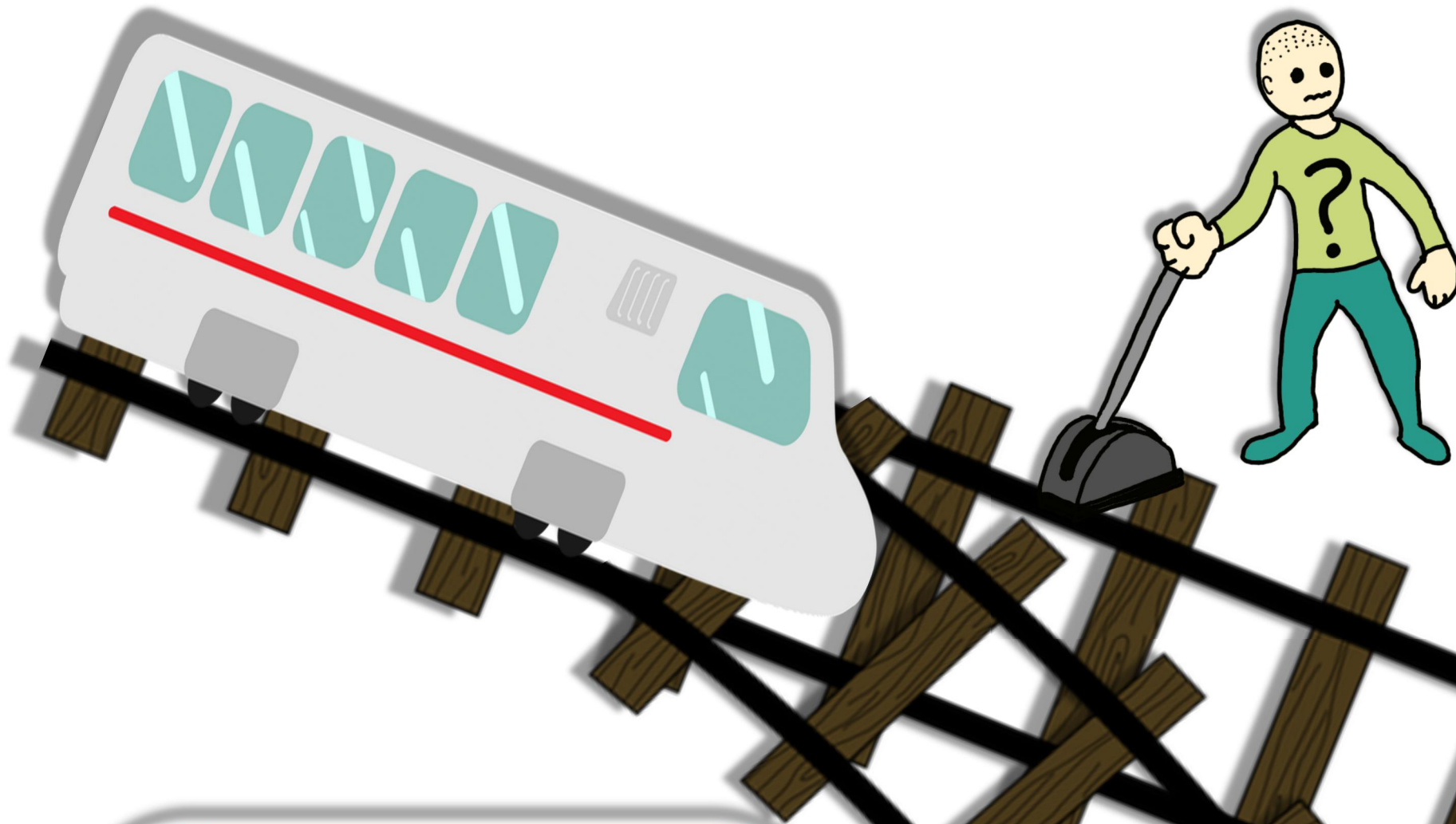
あの人よりこの人は人類にとって大切だから、何もしないだろう。

I would pull the lever because I would prefer this person to survive.

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I would do nothing because a young person will live longer than an old person.

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Your Choice

- ❖ Do nothing (the train goes straight)
- or
- ❖ Pull the lever (the train turns)

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