

# JANUARY 2024 PARENT GUIDE



**ARTICLE SUMMARIES &  
FAMILY DINNER CONVERSATION STARTERS**

# LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents,

We want our *Tuttle Times* Parent Guide to be a valuable resource for you. Parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's minds and helping them understand the big ideas that lay the foundation for a bright future. We want to empower you to confidently guide your children in learning these principles.

Our mission is to equip you with knowledge and resources to make learning engaging and meaningful for your children. By encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and a love for learning, your children can apply their knowledge in real-life situations and nurture their problem-solving skills and creativity.

We have included dinner table conversation starters in this Parent Guide. We firmly believe that changing the world begins at the dinner table. We hope these conversation starters will spark meaningful discussions and provide opportunities for bonding as a family.

—The Tuttle Twins team



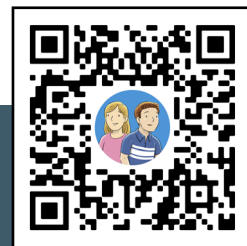
Be sure to check out our [January Issue Resources](#), which has links to the challenge badges, activity solutions, and more!

**New!** We would love for you (and your child!) to share your thoughts on this month's issue with us. Find the survey links on the January Issue Resources page!

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## Article Overviews and Dinner Table Conversations

We encourage you to read the *Tuttle Times* articles with your children, and we hope that the topics and big ideas bring about conversations that expand their knowledge and understanding of how the world works.

For each article, we explain our reasoning for including it in this month's issue along with dinner table conversation starters. Bon appétit!

### Stuck in the Mud of Compromise (Issue pages 3-7)

The twins find themselves happily compromising with Fred when they want to bake cookies, and he wants to bake a cake. Brownies it is! But when they try to combine brownie recipes, the twins don't want to compromise because Fred's recipe has one ingredient—MUD!

They discuss the nuance of compromise while the brownies (with no mud) are baking. Fred explains that compromise is a choice based on each individual's preferences and beliefs. You shouldn't compromise if it goes against your beliefs or doesn't benefit you enough. But it's also important to remember that allowing for personal choice is always preferable—sometimes there is no need to compromise.



#### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Can you think of a time when you compromised and were happy with your decision?
- Can you think of a time when you compromised and realized you shouldn't have?

### When Should You Compromise? (Issue pages 8-10)

After outlining the two questions you should ask before compromising—do you need to compromise and will the compromise leave you better off—we explain how because we are different, compromise is sometimes needed. But those differences among us can actually make our lives better—we can experience new activities, new foods, and new ideas. But if you are in a situation where you don't want to compromise, there should always be the choice to walk away from the compromise. If not, it's not a compromise—it's force.

#### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- Why do you think it's important to have the choice to say no and walk away from a compromise?
- What are examples of things you would never compromise on?



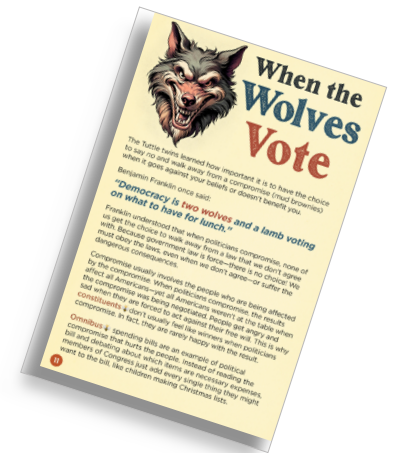


## When the Wolves Vote (Issue pages 11-12)

Ben Franklin once said, "Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch." We explain that while people say they want their government representatives to compromise, they are rarely happy with the results.

Omnibus spending bills are an example of bad compromise. Instead of negotiating and determining what is necessary, everyone just adds what they want to the bill. Then, they vote for the bill because what they want is in there—ignoring all the mud.

The world would be a more free, peaceful, and prosperous place if politicians concerned themselves more with protecting our rights because when politicians compromise, the thing being compromised is our freedom.



### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- If compromise doesn't work well in government, what's the solution when people disagree?
- Can you think of something some people think is wrong to do but shouldn't be against the law for others to do if they choose?

## Latest Buzz: Argentina's New President

(Issue pages 13-14)

On December 10, 2023, Argentina inaugurated a new president, Javier Milei. He is the first president in the world to call himself a libertarian. He promised the people that he would abolish government agencies, get rid of the central bank, and put a stop to out-of-control spending.

He also made sure people knew he wouldn't compromise if it meant adopting harmful policies. There have been a lot of infamous dictators throughout history who have refused to compromise with anyone who disagreed with them. Milei is the opposite of a dictator. His "no-compromise" approach isn't because he wants to tell people what to do. He refuses to compromise because he wants people to have the freedom to make their own choices and enjoy a prosperous economy.



### Dinner Table Conversation Starters

- What if the United States elected a president like Milei? What would be the first changes you would want the president to make?
- What do you think people in other socialist countries could learn from Argentina's recent election?



## The Virtue in Not Compromising

The virtues of sharing and compromise have long been upheld by many as essential for raising polite, sociable children. Although, if we apply some people's expectations of children sharing to adult situations, we would find it absurd! As adults, we don't always share our personal belongings freely. And the idea that compromise should always be encouraged deserves a second look too.

Compromise is often framed as the diplomatic and ideal solution, promoting harmony and teamwork. However, in reality, compromise can sometimes be a horrible idea.

Encouraging compromise is essential when it comes to matters of shared resources, such as toys. Learning to take turns helps children develop crucial social skills. However, extending this notion to every aspect of a child's life can inadvertently send the message that compromise is always the answer, even when it may not be in their best interest.

As adults, we carefully choose when to compromise and when to stand firm, based on our values, priorities, and the specific situation at hand. Thinking critically about compromising is a skill children can benefit from learning early on. For example, compromising on a shared game with a friend is a positive lesson, but compromising on personal boundaries or values is not. It's important for children to learn from their mistakes when compromising now to prevent making bigger mistakes that have harsher consequences when they are older.

Just as adults must be cautious about compromising their principles or personal belongings, children should be taught to recognize situations where compromise may not be in their best interest. When children do not understand that they have the choice to walk away from a compromise, they have the potential to be taken advantage of by people. It is imperative for parents to educate their children about setting healthy boundaries.

Teaching children to evaluate the importance of what is being asked of them and to recognize the pros and cons of their choices empowers them to make better decisions and avoid negative consequences. This kind of discernment is vital in developing a child's self-esteem and confidence, ensuring they grow into individuals who can navigate the complexities of relationships with resilience and strength.

# TUTTLE TIMES

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