


# Team game: Would You Rather?

A large, stylized red question mark is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the title area.

**Preparation time:** 5–10 minutes

**Activity time:** 15–45 minutes

**Materials/set up:** You'll need an open space in a classroom or outside. Clear an area so that participants are freely able to walk from one side to the other side of the space.

## Introduction

This activity will help build empathy and understanding around homelessness through facing the nearly impossible choices that some people are forced to make every day. The situations that people can find themselves in as a result of unforeseen circumstances in their lives can ultimately result in people becoming homeless.

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page features several question marks and squares. One large red question mark is at the top, with a smaller red square below it. Below these are two grey question marks and another red square, all arranged in a scattered, overlapping manner.

## Activity

**1** When the room is clear, explain to the group that we will be playing a game of 'Would you rather?'

**2** Instruct the group that for each question you ask them, they will have to make a choice between one scenario or another - and in order to give their answers they should place themselves on one side of the room or the other.

**3** The questions will start off very general - at the start you can make up your own if you like! Progressively the questions become more difficult and will lead into the topic of homelessness. After each question, prompt a couple of people on either side of the room to explain why they have chosen the scenario they have to spark debate around the issue.

### **Example Questions:**

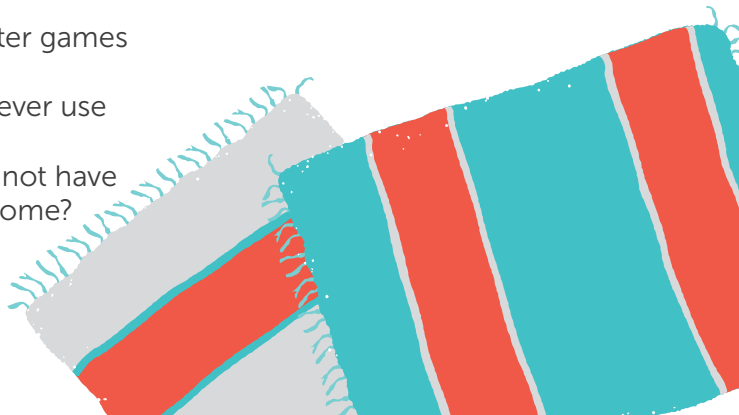
- Would you rather have the superpower of invisibility or be able to fly?
- ...eat pizza every day or never eat pizza again?
- ...be three feet taller or three feet shorter?
- ...have feet for hands or hands for feet?
- ...win the lottery or live twice as long? (alternative for younger groups "all the money in the world or live twice as long?)
- ...live with 7 cows in your living room or a panda in your bedroom?
- ...live without computer games or without music?
- ...never watch tv or never use social media?
- ...never have a pet or not have a bathroom in your home?

- ...always have a curfew (for younger groups - "always have to be at home by a certain time e.g 8pm") or only sleep for an hour each night?
- ...always have cold showers or never have a hot meal again?
- ...not have enough money to pay for your home or not have enough money for food for you and your family?

### **Discussion Point 1**

At this point you can discuss that some people struggle to pay their rents due to the cost increasing more than wages and benefits. This is now one of the main reasons why people are falling into homelessness.

For younger children you can adapt this discussion point to highlight that some people don't have enough money to live in their own home and afford bills, food etc, which can lead to them becoming homeless. You can find more resources about this at [www.crisis.org.uk/coverthecost](http://www.crisis.org.uk/coverthecost)



## Discussion Point 2

With this question after the initial debate you can elaborate that 170,000 households across Great Britain alone are finding themselves homeless and the only available option they have is to live in temporary accommodation provided by their local council. Temporary accommodation is often unsuitable, and sometimes even dangerous. Living in temporary accommodation for a long period can have a devastating impact on people's lives and mental health. Temporary accommodation is no place for anyone to call home. Worryingly, our research shows that the number of households in the worst forms of temporary accommodation is set to double by 2026 if nothing is done to address the problem. Some people of course don't even have access to temporary accommodation and so are forced to sleep rough.



## Discussion Point 3

This can link to people sleeping during the day as it's safer than sleeping rough at night and also that people with no permanent home have to be able to carry all their possessions with them at all times.

## Explain

People lose their homes when the rising pressure from high rents and low incomes becomes too much. When there is constant pressure and stresses they can build up and push people into homelessness. Without government support, a sudden increase in pressure, like losing a job, becoming ill, or leaving home to get out of a bad relationship, can quickly force people into homelessness.

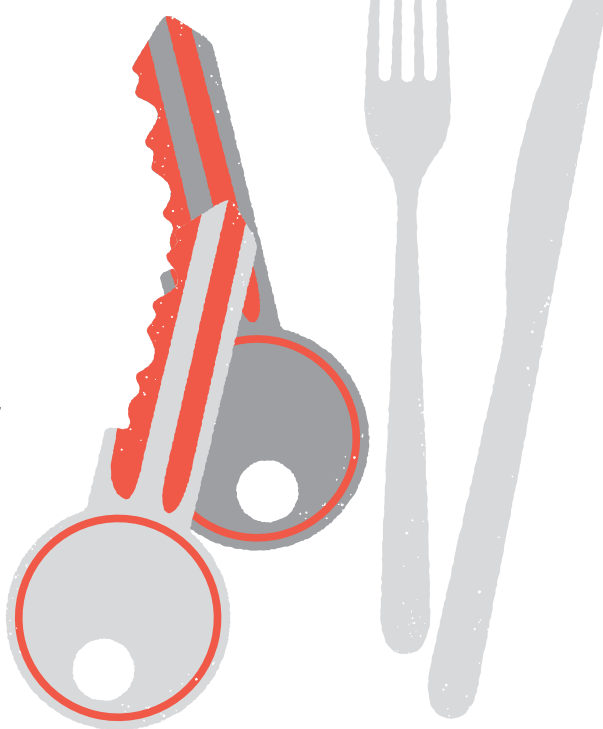
## Ask

How difficult did you find choosing the answers to these questions? Why were some easier than others? Do you feel differently about homelessness?



## Summary

The rising costs of rent in this country means that lots of people are having to make more difficult choices; to pay for food or lose their homes. Everybody should have somewhere safe to call home, and we all need help from time to time. Local Housing Allowance (LHA), which is money the government gives to families struggling with their rent, is out of date does not cover the cost of average rent, meaning people who are entitled to help, aren't receiving enough to make ends meet.



## What next?

- Check if LHA covers the cost of housing in your area, using our interactive map at [www.crisis.org.uk/coverthecost](http://www.crisis.org.uk/coverthecost). If it doesn't, write to your council or MP and ask them to help prevent more people being pushed into homelessness in your area.
- Look at how you can support Crisis, by campaigning, volunteering or fundraising: [www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved)
- Try some of our other learning activities by searching online 'Crisis resources for young people'.