

To facilitate this process, you should jointly and separately consider these classic methods of compromise to see if they fit your situation.

**I'll cut the pie, you choose your piece first.** This works for many situations, from kids pouring juice to divorcing adults splitting up a household. For example, when Marla and Stan broke up, they had to divide their Christmas tree ornaments. Compared to the whole divorce it was a minor issue, but it recapitulated many of their past arguments about fairness and power. They resolved the conflict by having Marla divide the ornaments into two groups that she considered of equal value, then Stan chose one of the groups and Marla took the remainder.

**Take turns.** I'll stay home with the kids Saturday so you can take your class, and you will watch the kids Sunday so I can play golf with my Dad.

**Do both, have it all.** Let's take out a loan so we can get a new car *and* go to Hawaii. Let's get up an hour earlier so you can exercise *and* I can cook a real breakfast.

**Trial period.** Let's limit Janie to an hour's television a day and see if her homework improves after a month.

**My way when I'm doing it, your way when you're doing it.** When you're driving, we'll go the fastest way on the freeway and I won't complain. When I'm driving, we'll go the scenic route and you will relax and try to enjoy it.

**Tit for tat.** If you clean the bathroom once a week, I'll do the laundry once a week.

**Part of what I want with part of what you want.** I get to have the worst two sides of the house resingled, you get to put the money we save away in the college fund.

**Split the difference.** You want to buy a five-piece bedroom set for \$3,000. I'm happy with what we've got. Let's split the difference and get a new bed and dresser for \$1,500.

In the case of Marion and Ken, they used the "Part of what I want with part of what you want" method. They went to Marion's mom's house on Wednesday, Thursday, and most of Friday, so Marion had some time to visit with her family. But they drove home late Friday night so that Ken would have the weekend to rest, watch sports, and make a start on the new toolshed.