

# Venial and Mortal Sin Worksheet

Classify each scenario as Venial Sin, Mortal Sin, Not Enough Information, or Not a Sin.

This worksheet helps readers understand the difference between venial sin and mortal sin in Catholic teaching. It is most useful when it shows that surface behaviour is not the whole story. For a sin to be mortal, all three conditions below must be present.

1 Grave matter	2 Full knowledge	3 Deliberate consent
-------------------	---------------------	-------------------------

## Write one answer beside each scenario:

Venial Sin • Mortal Sin • Not Enough Information • Not a Sin

1. After a stressful day, a person snaps impatiently at a family member, then later apologises sincerely. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A Catholic knowingly skips Sunday Mass for no serious reason because they would rather sleep in. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Someone repeats damaging gossip because it makes the conversation more interesting. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A person deliberately steals a small, low-value item for the thrill of getting away with it. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A person deliberately watches pornography, knowing it is seriously wrong and freely choosing to do it anyway. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Someone has an intrusive blasphemous thought but immediately rejects it and does not consent to it. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A person lies to avoid embarrassment in a minor social situation. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Someone deliberately steals a large sum of money from an elderly relative who depends on it. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A person misses Mass because they are caring for a seriously ill family member and cannot leave. \_\_\_\_\_
10. A person becomes seriously intoxicated and then chooses to drive, knowingly putting others at risk. \_\_\_\_\_
11. A person downloads paid software illegally, but the scenario gives no detail about value, awareness, or intent. \_\_\_\_\_
12. A person keeps silent about a serious sin in confession on purpose because they do not want to mention it. \_\_\_\_\_

## Reflection prompts

Which scenarios were easiest to identify, and why?

\_\_\_\_\_

Which ones showed you that context matters?

\_\_\_\_\_

How did this exercise help you understand grave matter, knowledge, and consent more clearly?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Answer Key

Likely answers with short explanations. This is a study aid, not a replacement for confession, spiritual direction, or pastoral guidance.

1	Venial Sin	Impatience and unkind speech wound charity, but this example points to a lesser moral failure followed by repentance.
2	Mortal Sin	The scenario says the person knowingly skipped Sunday Mass without a serious reason and did so freely, which points to grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent.
3	Venial Sin	Gossip is sinful and can harm another person's reputation, but this example does not clearly indicate grave matter.
4	Venial Sin	Theft is sinful, but this example suggests lesser matter rather than grave matter.
5	Mortal Sin	The scenario explicitly includes serious matter, knowledge, and deliberate consent.
6	Not a Sin	An intrusive thought that is rejected rather than embraced is not a deliberate sinful act.
7	Venial Sin	A small lie told to avoid embarrassment is sinful, but the example does not suggest grave matter.
8	Mortal Sin	This points to serious theft against a vulnerable person. The scenario suggests grave matter and a deliberate choice.
9	Not a Sin	Caring for a seriously ill family member is a serious reason. The person is not deliberately rejecting the Mass obligation without cause.
10	Mortal Sin	Freely choosing to drive while seriously intoxicated knowingly places life and safety at risk, which points to grave matter.
11	Not Enough Information	The act may be sinful, but the scenario does not provide enough detail to judge the seriousness of the matter or the person's knowledge and consent.
12	Mortal Sin	Deliberately hiding a serious sin in confession is a grave act because it makes the confession dishonest and sacrilegious.

Closing note. This worksheet is meant to help readers understand Catholic moral theology more clearly. It is a study tool designed to support discernment and reflection.