

The Option Method Institute

Education based on the teachings of Bruce Di Marsico

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Mistakes

From

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Bruce Di Marsico

Mistakes

A mistake is doing something expecting one result, and winding up with another.

You try to put the watchband on the watch, and everything flies apart--instead of putting on the watchband, you broke the watch. That's a mistake--you got an unintended result that's also an undesirable result. An unintended result that's a pleasant result is usually called a lucky accident.

Often, we judge that other people made a mistake when they're merely expecting a different result than we are. The minimum to decide that someone else made a mistake would be that they stated a certain goal, and they achieved another. They said that they were trying to bake a pie and instead they roasted a turkey. But you could also be misunderstanding what they said they were doing: "baking a pie" could be a family in-joke when they were growing up that they used to describe roasting a turkey. So you can't really know if anyone else made a mistake or not unless they tell you. And even then, they may have *actually* gotten the results they wanted, and be telling you that they did not, for their own reasons: "If I had known that was the last piece of pie, I wouldn't have eaten it—my mistake."

If you believe that what someone is doing will lead to a result that they don't intend and that you don't want – for example, they are setting the furniture on fire to keep the house warm – then, in that case, maybe you just give your advice, and run!