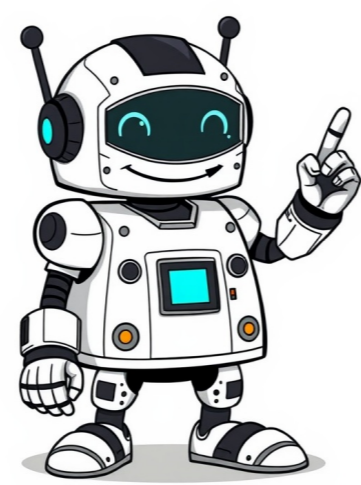


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In discussions about compromise, two terms often come up: splitting the baby and splitting the difference. While both phrases convey the idea of finding a middle ground between opposing views, they have distinct origins and connotations. The original story behind "splitting the baby" comes from the Hebrew Bible (1 Kings 3), where King Solomon is faced with a difficult decision to chop a baby in two and give each mother half. This narrative has evolved over time, and the phrase now often refers to a compromise that is so unappealing that it forces both parties to abandon their hard lines. In contrast, "splitting the difference" typically implies finding a middle ground within a reasonable range of agreement, without either party conceding on their core demands. This usage is more common in legal and business contexts, where parties seek to resolve disputes efficiently. However, some argue that using this phrase might not be ideal, as it could downplay the fact that the compromise is still somewhat unfair. To illustrate these differences, consider real-world examples. In economic disputes, "splitting the baby" might describe a compromise within a reasonable range of opposing parties' demands. Conversely, in arbitration or litigation, this phrase can imply an undesirable outcome. On the other hand, in mediation, the goal is to assist the parties without imposing a decision. When it comes to determining custody in cases involving small children, "splitting the baby" refers to giving some to each side. But do we really want to use such a term in this context? While there's no one-size-fits-all answer, using phrases like "split the difference" is generally considered more suitable for describing compromises that benefit both parties. The distinction between words like "split," "splitted," "slit," "cleft," "crevice," and others can be somewhat nuanced. While most of these words are used interchangeably in everyday conversation, there are some differences in their connotations and typical usage contexts. For instance, a crack tends to be a visible flaw that can splinter or spider into larger cracks with many smaller, attached cracks. The defining point of a crack is that the cracked object is still together — no matter how tenuous. On the other hand, a slit implies some form of opening. Cracks also tend to be on a surface; a slit can be in virtually anything. A crevice is typically reserved for very large objects that have been separated into more than one distinct section. A crevice in the earth would be something that separates two plains; a crevice in a wall could very well separate the wall into two pieces. "Narrow" is respective to the larger object. A crevice could be meters wide or only inches. A split, however, more directly conveys an object being split into smaller pieces or a longer top-to-bottom crack. A split could also be used to describe pieces that are no longer attached at all. There is no implication of depth with a split; the importance is the length of the split or how much of the surface remains unaffected. Cleft, on the other hand, refers specifically to a fissure or split in rock or the ground. It's often associated with V-shaped holes or gaps. Depth is important to a cleft but the gap will not go all the way through. When it comes to using these words idiomatically, there are some preferences. For example, "into" is usually preferred before "split," especially in compound verbs like turn to stone, bring to focus, etc.. However, when dealing with split or split in numbers, either form is acceptable, although the preference for "in" seems stronger. Theremin played by Clara Rockmore in 1940, the sound of which was split into many different notes simultaneously The theremin's sound wave is split into two main frequencies: the fundamental note and its harmonic series. Classified documents are split into three levels of secrecy: top secret, secret, and confidential. A typical day for a student is split into morning and afternoon sessions, each lasting about 45 minutes. Water molecules in an electrolyte solution are split into hydrogen ions and oxygen gas. The company's sales are split between the domestic market and exports. Her hairstyle was split into two parts: the top section styled with volume at the roots and the lower half left loose and straight. The new policy is split into three main sections for discussion during the town hall meeting. The university curriculum is split into several disciplines, each requiring its own set of skills.

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