

Hesitation

Uncertainty

ανησυχία,
δισταγμός,
αβεβαιότητα,
αβέβαιος

που αμφιβάλλουμε για την αλήθεια ή την ορθότητά του

hesitate, vacillate, waver, falter. These verbs mean to be uncertain, irresolute, or indecisive. To *hesitate* is to hold back or pause because of doubt or uncertainty: “*A President either is constantly on top of events or, if he hesitates, events will soon be on top of him*” (Harry S. Truman). *Vacillate* implies going back and forth between alternative, usually conflicting courses: *She vacillated about whether to go or to stay.* *Waver* suggests having second thoughts about a decision: *After much wavering, he finally gave his permission.* To *falter* is to be unsteady in resolution or action: *He resolved to ask for a raise but faltered when his boss entered the room.*

qualm, scruple, compunction, misgiving. These nouns denote a feeling of uncertainty about the fitness or correctness of an action. *Qualm* is a disturbing feeling of uneasiness and self-doubt: “*an ignorant ruffianly gaucho, who . . . would . . . fight, steal, and do other naughty things without a qualm*” (W.H. Hudson). *Scruple* is an uneasy feeling arising from conscience or principle about a course of action: “*My father's old-fashioned notions boggled a little at first to this arrangement . . . but his scruples were in the end overruled*” (John Galt). *Compunction* implies a prick or twinge of conscience aroused by wrongdoing or the prospect of wrongdoing *stole the money without compunction.* *Misgiving* suggests often sudden apprehension *had misgivings about quitting his job.*

(DrZ 30.6.2007)