

Money

Money talks

- In groups of three, discuss these questions. (If possible, group students from different countries.)

What is the currency in your country?
What is the exchange rate with the Euro / the US dollar?
What's the rate of income tax and VAT in your country?
How would society work without money?
Do you think poor countries should be required to pay their debts to the rich countries?
The world's richest three men have more money between them than the world's poorest sixty countries - should there be a redistribution? How?

- In groups, brainstorm one advantage and one disadvantage for each of these things. (Read them out, giving students a few minutes to discuss each one.)

banks, credit cards, being rich, having a mortgage, pension schemes, direct debit

- In groups, brainstorm some differences between rich countries and poor countries. Choose three of the differences you came up with and agree the best way of making things more equal.

Bills

In pairs, make a list of all the regular bills you can think of, e.g. electricity, gas, water, community charge, etc. Discuss which you think you could reduce, and how.

In your country, what does an electricity company do when someone doesn't pay their bill? Imagine you haven't paid your bill for six months. Role-play this conversation with your partner.

Student A, you are a bailiff and you are here to take property to the value of the unpaid bill. This will be kept until the bill, and the storage fee, is paid. There is also fee for the bailiff's services. You are just doing your job.

Student B, you are a single parent and unemployed. Explain your situation to the bailiff. Try to come to some arrangement with the bailiff.

What arrangements did you come to?

Making money

In small groups, brainstorm ways of getting rich, e.g. marrying into money, winning the lottery, buying a racehorse. Make a list of your top five.

Swap lists with another group. Decide whether you would support the other group's ideas and whether any are illegal or immoral. Mark the list accordingly and return it.

In your groups, choose your favorite money-making idea and make a list of arguments to persuade someone to go into business with you as a partner.

Inventors

In pairs, invent an object - the stranger, the better - which you think will be useful to people. Make some sketches and write a brief description to explain it, e.g. *This is a pedal-powered computer that will give you exercise while you work.*

Team up with another pair. Each pair takes turns to play the role of the bank managers. Try to persuade the bank managers to lend you the money to produce your invention.

Hard sell

In pairs, think of arguments to persuade people to buy these objects, e.g. empty coke can - *You, could use this as a vase.*

a snowball,	a dirty comb,	one sock,	a used teabag,	a broken plate,	cold fish and chips,
a clock with no hands,	a house with no roof,	a bucket with a hole,	a piece of string		

(Invite volunteers to try to persuade the class of the value of each object.)

Sayings

In small groups, discuss what these sayings mean. Do you agree or disagree?

You can't buy love. Money talks. Money makes the world go around. A fool and his money are soon parted. Property is theft. Time is money. He who pays the piper calls the tune. Money is the root of all evil.

Tell the rest of the class some money sayings from your country.