

Credit Crunch

Task 1 – Problems, problems!

Your teacher is going to dictate some big problems to you. Write them down and then decide in your group which are the most and least important:

Task 2 – Top tips for saving money

A radio station asked its listeners to phone in with their top tips for saving money. Here's a selection of their comments. Read them and then decide which are the best and worst tips.

What are your top tips for saving money?

Susan: "My tip for saving money is to take your lunch to work instead of eating out. I used to spend £10 every day on lunch, but now I take a tupperware of food and eat it in the office or, if it's sunny, in a park. Imagine, that saves me £50 a week, so that's £200 a month more or less! Ok, it's not as tasty or as fun as eating in a restaurant every day, but hey, think of all that money I'm saving!"

Mark: "My tip for saving money is to go out less at the weekends. I used to go out all weekend, to the cinema, bars, for a pizza, you know, just normal things. But now I ask friends to come to my house instead, we watch a film, play computer games and just hang out at home. It's much cheaper and sometimes just as fun as going out."

Jasmine: "I think that most people spend lots of money on clothes these days. My tip is to buy second hand clothes instead of new ones. There are lots of good second hand clothes shops and charity shops in my town and I find lots of really funky things. You just need a bit of imagination and you can wear really cool clothes for a fraction of the cost of new ones. I reckon second hand clothes are more original and trendy anyway."

Pablo: "My tip is to keep a list of everything you spend for a week. I mean absolutely everything, from that extra special coffee you didn't really need to the lottery ticket you bought with the hope of winning a million! I mean, it all adds up doesn't it? So when you have your list, look and see what things you didn't really need to buy and the next week, just don't buy them! It's simple!"

Louise: "I used to get the bus to work and now I've started cycling. In fact I didn't make the change in order to save money, I did it to get fit. But now I really notice that I save money too. So, my tip is to take less public transport and cycle and walk around the city when you can. You've save money and keep fit!"

- Whose tip is the best?
- Whose tip would save the most money?
- Is there any advice in the tips that you never take? Why?

Write your own top tip here:

Task 3 – Freecycling

- What do you do with things you don't want or need anymore?
- Have you ever heard of 'Freecycle'?

Freecycle is an organisation where you can give things you don't use anymore to somebody who wants them. There are lots of regional 'Freecycle' groups on the internet.

- Do you own anything that you don't need or don't want anymore? What is it? Describe the item below:

- Do you know what a 'jumble sale' or a 'bring and buy' sale is. Have a guess and then check with your teacher.
- Have you ever bought anything second-hand?
- Now talk to your classmates and see if anyone wants the item you're freecycling! You may find something you'd like to have too!

Task 4 – Could you lend me a tenner?

In the UK, 'a tenner' refers to a ten pound note. Think of as many reasons as you can to ask somebody to lend you a tenner. Write them below:

Now, do a role play with a partner. One of you is the borrower and one of you is the lender. You could start your dialogue like this:

A: Hi _____! Could you lend me a tenner?

B: Oh, I don't know mate. What's it for?

A: Well.....

Task 5 – Get rich quick scheme

You need to make money quickly! Work in pairs or groups to think of a way to make some money (preferably lots!) quickly. The only rules are:

- You mustn't break the law!
- You mustn't hurt other people!