

## Money can buy happiness

11th April, 2016



A song from the famous English pop group the Beatles told us that money can't buy us love. Many people also believe that money cannot buy happiness. In fact, there is an expression that says money is the root of all evil. However, a new study from Cambridge University suggests that money can buy you happiness. Researchers conducted a study on the spending habits of customers in a bank. They compared what the bank customers bought with their personality. The research team compared the personalities of 625 people with a list of how they spent their money. The conclusion of the study was that what people buy can lead to happiness, but only if they buy the right things.

One of the researchers believes the study may change the way people think about money and happiness. He said it showed, "that spending can increase our happiness when it is spent on goods and services that fit our personalities". He said Internet companies could use information about people's happiness to recommend products and services that make people happier. Another researcher said spending money could be more important in our lives than we thought. She said: "Spending money on products that help us express who we are as individuals could turn out to be as important to our well-being as finding the right job, the right neighbourhood or even the right friends and partners."

Sources: *Cambridge-news.co.uk / telegraph / ScienceDaily*

## Writing

Money can't buy happiness. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*song / money / love / happiness / researchers / spending habits / conclusion / personalities / Internet / information / products / services / important / well-being*

## True / False

- This news is about a song sung by the group the Beatles. T / F
- A study into happiness and money was done by Cambridge University. T / F
- Researchers said money made 625 people unhappy. T / F
- Researchers said buying the right things can make people happy. T / F
- A researcher said the study would not change our ideas about money. T / F
- The researchers said the study would help Internet companies. T / F
- A researcher said spending money was not very important. T / F
- A researcher said spending money was as important as finding a job. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. famous      | a. thinks      |
| 2. expression  | b. report      |
| 3. study       | c. suggest     |
| 4. conducted   | d. well known  |
| 5. lead to     | e. show        |
| 6. believes    | f. result in   |
| 7. fit         | g. saying      |
| 8. recommend   | h. happiness   |
| 9. express     | i. carried out |
| 10. well-being | j. match       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What is the relationship between money and happiness?
- Why did the Beatles sing, 'Can't Buy Me Love'?
- Is money really the root of all evil?
- How does money affect your happiness?
- What things make you happiest?
- How does shopping make you happy?
- What things that you buy make you happy and unhappy?
- Can poor people be happy?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. A song from the famous English pop
  2. money is the root
  3. spending
  4. how they spent
  5. if they buy the
  6. change the way people
  7. goods
  8. help us express who we
  9. important to our
  10. finding the right
- a. are as individuals
  - b. right things
  - c. job
  - d. think about money
  - e. of all evil
  - f. and services
  - g. group the Beatles
  - h. well-being
  - i. their money
  - j. habits

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What is your personality like?
- b) Does Internet shopping make you happy?
- c) What does 'retail therapy' mean?
- d) Does spending or saving money make people happiest?
- e) Does spending money make us happier than finding a job?
- f) Do you agree with the expression, 'money makes the world go round'?
- g) Is it better to find the right job or the right neighbourhood?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

## Spelling

1. the smouaf English pop group the Beatles
2. there is an xreipneoss
3. money is the root of all lvei
4. the spending ahbits of customers
5. with their ypilnsortea
6. The oloinncucs of the study
7. One of the srahsrrecee
8. spending can niaserce our happiness
9. rmdmceeon products and services
10. who we are as aiivilnddus
11. the right ndugbhooihroe (UK) / ongiheorhbdo (USA)
12. the right friends and tnparrse

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. b	4. i	5. f
6. a	7. j	8. c	9. e	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Chocolate

You think chocolate is the thing that can make us happiest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these at making you happy (and why): nature, English or sleep.

### Role B – Nature

You think nature is the thing that can make us happiest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these at making you happy (and why): chocolate, English or sleep.

### Role C – English

You think English is the thing that can make us happiest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these at making you happy (and why): nature, chocolate or sleep.

### Role D – Sleep

You think sleep is the thing that can make us happiest. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these at making you happy (and why): nature, English or chocolate.

## Speaking – Things

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that make you happiest at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- chocolate
- mobile phone
- nature
- English
- working
- marriage
- travel
- sleep

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.