

Master Your Finances

Easy Money

- Teacher's Insights -



≈60 minutes



B2 - C1



speaking, vocabulary, prepositions

Today's class focuses on managing finances. There is a special focus questions which end with prepositions. Students should spend the majority of the class time speaking, so if you have a large group, expect to split them up into smaller speaking groups.

Introduction: **Are you a master of your finances?**

Read these statements and see how many of them you agree with (and where you can improve). Students may need help with the expressions 'rainy day' and 'splash out' among others.

1. I always set aside a portion of my income for **a rainy day**.
(a future time of financial need or unexpected expenses)
2. I try not to **splash out** right after payday. (spend a lot of money on something)
3. I never spend more than I earn.
4. I always read the fine print of financial products and services.
5. I regularly check my bank statements to track my expenses.
6. I enjoy finding new and creative ways to save money.

Grammar & Speaking: **Add the missing prepositions to the questions.** **Then, discuss your answers as a group.**

Answers are given below. It is worth pointing out that all the synonyms and near synonyms of 'spend' use the preposition 'on' (with the exception of 'invest' which is a bit different).

in

on

for

from

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What do you spend too much money on ? | 7. What could you save a little money on ? |
| 2. What would you like to save up for ? | 8. What do people waste money on ? |
| 3. What do you love to splash out on ? | 9. What should you never invest in ? |
| 4. Who would you never borrow money from ? | 10. What would you like to raise money for ? |
| 5. What is one thing that you overspent on ? | 11. Who is it OK to steal money from ? |
| 6. What would you never cut down on ? | 12. What should you never skimp on ? |

1. Students may say they spend too much money on eating out, shopping, or entertainment.
2. Students may say they would like to save up for a holiday or a car.
3. Students may say they love to splash out on designer clothes, gadgets, or travel experiences.
4. Students may say they would never borrow money from someone they don't trust.
5. Students may say they overspent on a special occasion or impulse purchases.
6. Students may say they would never cut down on their education or health.

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7. Students may say they could save a little money on leisure activities.
8. Students may say people waste money on fast food, subscriptions, or unnecessary upgrades.
9. Students may say you should never invest in get-rich-quick schemes or scams.
10. Students may say they would like to raise money for a charity.
11. Students will hopefully say it's never OK to steal money from anyone.
12. Students may say you should never skimp on your health, safety, or personal well-being.

Speaking II:

food and drink



Discuss ways to save money on the following things:

keeping fit



transportation



technology



Food and Drink: Students may discuss ways to save money on groceries, such as meal planning, buying in bulk, or using coupons. They may also talk about alternatives to dining out, like cooking at home or packing their own lunches.

Keeping Fit: Students may discuss ways to save money on gym memberships, such as finding free workout classes or using home workout equipment. They may also talk about budget-friendly fitness activities, like jogging, cycling, or hiking.

Transportation: Students may discuss ways to save money on transportation, such as carpooling, using public transportation, or walking/biking to work or school. They may also talk about alternatives to car ownership, such as using ride-sharing services or renting cars on an as-needed basis.

Technology: Students may discuss ways to save money on technology, such as buying refurbished or used devices, shopping around for deals, or using free or low-cost software and apps. They may also talk about ways to limit data usage and reduce monthly bills for internet and phone services.

Native Phrases:

Read the sentences. Can you guess the meaning of the underlined phrases from context?

1. Hey, put your wallet away. Dinner's on me tonight. = I'll pay for dinner.
2. Calling all customers! Drinks are on the house for the next hour. = drinks are free
3. He wanted £50 for the dress, but I haggled him down to £40. = negotiate a lower price
4. This is a disaster. We're just pouring money down the drain. = wasting money
5. Don't get a job at that place. They pay peanuts! = pay a very low salary
6. He says he's broke, but I think he's been squirreling money away and not telling anyone.
= hoard money for the future in a secret place

Extra Activity: Split students into two teams, "savers" and "spenders", and get them to hold a debate, giving their reasons for being a "saver" or a "spender".