
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Living with debt



Listen to the full episode here: <https://bbc.in/4tzxTbP>

1. Look at the cover image and title of the episode. What do you think this episode is about? What do you know about this topic already? What vocabulary do you associate with this topic?

2. Now listen to the first two minutes of the episode.

- What do the presenters say the episode is about?
- What is this week's question? What do you think the answer is?

3. Now listen to the whole episode. As you listen, write down the six items of vocabulary. What do they mean?

a) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

b) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

c) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

d) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

e) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

f) Word/phrase: _____

It means: _____.

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4. What did you learn that was surprising or new in this episode?

5. Answer the quiz questions. Listen again or use the transcript to help you.

1. How much is the average British adult in debt through credit and loans?
 - a) £420
 - b) £4,200
 - c) £42,000
2. Which phrasal verb means 'to give back money you borrowed'?
 - a) pay off
 - b) pay over
 - c) pay away
3. Which idiom means 'having just enough money to pay for basic living expenses like food and rent'?
 - a) meet your match
 - b) meet in the middle
 - c) make ends meet
4. Which verb means 'to pay back' a debt?
 - a) clear
 - b) clean
 - c) cleanse
5. "Last month I didn't have enough money in my bank account to pay the mortgage or telephone bill. I was ____."
 - a) in the black
 - b) in advance
 - c) in arrears
6. Which idiom describes 'buying something with one large payment followed by smaller regular payments'?
 - a) the knick-knack
 - b) the flip-flop
 - c) the never-never

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

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7. Answer the following questions.

- What are three things you have learnt from this episode?
- How does this topic make you feel?
- Give three examples relevant to your life using the vocabulary.

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Answers

3.

- a. debt – money a person has borrowed and owes to someone
- b. pay back / pay off / clear (debt) – give back money you have borrowed
- c. make ends meet – (idiom) have just enough money to pay for basic living expenses like food, bills and rent
- d. in arrears – (idiom) still owing money that should have been paid already
- e. the never-never – (informal) buying something with one large payment followed by smaller regular payments which are made until the debt is repaid
- f. financial strain – emotional stress caused by a lack of money to meet basic needs or repay debt

5. 1b, 2a, 3c, 4a, 5c, 6c

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Teacher's notes

This worksheet is standardised so that you can amend and use it as appropriate with your classes.

Some topics may be difficult for learners, especially those which could be upsetting or cause offence. Please be mindful of this when using this worksheet and adapt it as necessary.

Extension activities

- Role-play an interview with an 'interviewer' and an 'expert' on this topic.
- Write a short story or article using the vocabulary from this episode.
- Read original articles on this topic.
- For homework: If it is available in your country, download and listen to the original podcast these extracts were taken from.