BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute English worksheet

Why do people buy gold?



Listen to the full episode here: https://bbc.in/4yQu9Gr

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. True or false? Phil says that he owns a lot of gold jewellery.
   a) true
   b) false
   c) not given

2. What happened to the price of gold in early 2026?
   a) it reached its highest ever price
   b) it reached its lowest ever price
   c) it stayed the same as it's always been

3. Which of these words or phrases means something or somewhere that's protected or safe from harm?
   a) asset
   b) safe haven
   c) out of thin air

4. Which of the following is an ancient and mystical kind of chemistry that attempted to do impossible things, like create gold out of other metals?
   a) asset
   b) safe haven
   c) alchemy

5. True or false? Experts believe the price of gold will never increase again.
   a) true
   b) false
   c) not given

6. "What shall we have for lunch? I have _____ some soup."
   a) an asset for
   b) a safe haven for
   c) a hankering for

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6. Write your own sentences using the vocabulary.

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. asset – something of financial value that can be sold for money

b. safe haven – something or somewhere protected from harm or loss

c. out of thin air – from nothing or nowhere

d. alchemy – ancient study combining elements of chemistry and mysticism, which attempted to do impossible things like transforming ordinary metals into gold

e. ethereal – seemingly unreal

f. a hankering for – a strong desire for

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

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