



Money Throughout Our Lives

Our financial needs change throughout our lives. Read the following case studies and discuss the sorts of needs and wants each person might have.

Alan is 14 years old and lives at home with his parents. He gets a weekly allowance for cleaning his room and washing his parents' car. He likes going out with his friends, but he wants to save up to buy an MP3 player and speakers for his room.

Fran is 16 and studying hard for her exams, as she wants to go to university. She's got a boyfriend too, and when she's not studying, she wants to be out with him, so she really doesn't have time to get a part-time job.

John is 17 years old and has just left school but can't find a job, although he's looking hard. Fortunately, he is still living at home, but is really keen to learn to drive, as he thinks it will increase his chances of getting a job.

Sian is a 19 year old student. She's just started renting a flat with two friends. She has taken out a student loan but this doesn't give her much money. She is looking for part-time work but hasn't managed to find anything yet. Her flat mates both work and, although she doesn't want to miss out on the fun, it's expensive to go out with them in the evenings.

Gina is a 25 year old single mum with a baby and a toddler under two. She lives in a house paid for by the council and receives benefits. She's not able to work because looking after the children takes up all of her time.

Michelle is 32, hard-working, with a high-flying career. She has bought her own smart flat, drives a sports car and goes on lots of holidays with her friends. She works late most evenings, but she likes to go out to parties at weekends. She has no children.

Ali is 43 years old and works full-time, and so does his wife. He and his wife own their own home and have three children – all at school. They employ a childminder to collect the children from school and a cleaner who comes in two mornings a week.

Widower **Jack** is 67 years old and retired two years ago. He receives the State Pension. He has a limited amount of savings. He recently moved into a rented flat to be nearer to his son and daughter-in-law and their children.

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DISCUSSION

For each of the case studies mentioned, discuss the person's likely financial situation. You could think about the following:

- How much might the person earn and spend?
- What financial worries might he or she have?
- What needs and wants might he or she have?
- Would he or she be able to save any money to buy these things?

Activity

Think about the things you may need money for over the next 10 years. These could involve financial commitments that are:

- **Short-term** – inexpensive purchases that can usually be bought straight away and require little or no saving (e.g. DVDs, CDs, food)
- **Medium-term** – purchases that require some saving in advance or that involve payment over a period of time (e.g. television, DVD player, mobile phone contract)
- **Long-term** – expensive purchases that will require planning and long-term, dedicated saving, over many months or years (e.g. pension, university costs, holidays, investments, mortgage)

Choose five things and investigate how much they cost. You could look online, in stores or use catalogues. Is the cost of a particular item always the same or does it differ? How could you find the best price?