



Seeking Financial Advice

There are a number of different people and organisations you could ask for advice about managing your money. Some of these include:

- parents and family
- friends
- teachers
- advisers at a local bank or building society
- Citizens Advice Bureau (charity run by volunteers, who offer unbiased advice on lots of different matters).

Sometimes the advice you receive from different people also differs. So how do you know what to do?

You need to consider:

- their experience and expertise
- whether they have any motivations behind giving you particular advice (e.g. are they trying to sell you a product or get you to invest your money in their company?)
- whether they are trying to persuade you to take risks, or take sensible safer routes.



DISCUSSION

Discuss the kind of advice you might expect from each of the people or organisations listed above. What might you need to be aware of when seeking their advice?

Activity 1

Coralie is 13 years old and wants to buy a DVD player for her room. She has saved just enough but buying it would mean she would have no money left.

She seeks advice from a number of sources but the advice they give is different. Can you work out which person or organisation gave each of the following pieces of advice?

“ You should definitely buy the DVD player. What’s the point of saving if you can’t enjoy your money? You can always borrow from your brother if you need it. ”

“ Rather than spending all your money, why not put the money in a savings account? Then you will earn interest and your money will grow. ”

“ Why don’t you wait until you have saved a bit more money. It’s always sensible to have some left over for a rainy day. You may see something else that you’d prefer to buy. ”

Activity 2

Imagine that a young couple are looking to buy a property and need to take out a mortgage. Role play the different types of advice that they might receive and discuss any issues that they might need to consider when seeking financial advice.