

**Subject:** Can we buy happiness?

**AIMS:**

- to practise listening comprehension & speaking skills (linked to the aspect of 'happiness' & the concept 'health' → 'mental health')
- to develop vocabulary
- to get knowledgeable about some research/ studies conducted with reference to 'happiness', 'mental health'

**ACTIVITY I: Vocabulary extension & thinking skills (→ ATL skills)**

**VOCABULARY**

1. Write the vocabulary given below into the right column.

*wealthy*                      *broke*                      *filthy rich*                      *well-off*  
*loaded*                      *needy*                      *worse off*

POOR	RICH

2. The TED talk (by Michael Norton) is titled 'How to buy happiness'. What do you think it might be about? What ideas might be presented? What aspects/ faces of happiness might be taken into account? How do you define being rich?

[https://www.ted.com/talks/michael\\_norton\\_how\\_to\\_buy\\_happiness](https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_norton_how_to_buy_happiness)

**ACTIVITY II: Vocabulary development**

Before watching

2A: Match the halves to make expressions.

1.	to go into	A	polls
2.	to measure	B	schools
3.	to hold	C	paper
4.	political	D	true
5.	low-income	E	debt
6.	a slip of	F	happiness

**2B: Vocabulary: Match the words (1-10) with their definitions (A-J).**

1.	a dodge ball	A	a student who is studying for a first degree at a college or university
2.	a donation	B	a game played by children standing in a circle using a large rubber ball that one child throws at another, who tries to avoid being hit
3.	a glossy	C	to illegally get money or information from someone by using force or threats
4.	a jerk	D	a photograph printed on shiny paper
5.	an incentive	E	not very important, serious, or valuable
6.	an undergraduate	F	someone who does stupid, annoying, or unkind things
7.	antisocial	G	to annoy someone
8.	to bug someone	H	a thing that motivates or encourages someone to do something
9.	to extort	I	money or goods that you give to an organization, especially one that helps people
10.	trivial	J	not interested in meeting other people, or not enjoying friendly relationships with them

**2C: Fill the gaps with the word from the activity 2B. Put them into the correct form where necessary.**

1. If you want to help people in need, you can make a ..... to charity.
2. He is aggressive and displays ..... behaviour.
3. I don't understand why she cries over ..... matters.
4. Mobsters often ..... money from small businesses.
5. He kept ..... me to lend her money.

**ACTIVITY III: Watch the TED talk and answer the questions**

1. What happens to people if they win a lottery?
2. What would readers do if they won a lottery?
3. Why generally money doesn't make us happy?
4. What was the experiment in Canada about? Explain the rules and the results.
5. How were the results different in Canada and Uganda?

6. Explain the global correlation between charity and happiness.
7. Present the experiment in Belgium. What were the results?
8. What project does Michael Norton present as a good start of handling money in a different way?
9. If money can't buy happiness, you're not spending it right. - How do you understand this statement?

#### ACTIVITY IV: Complete the following questions with words given below

*afford      debt      lend      beg      benefit      charity*

- When was the last time you donated money to \_\_\_\_\_?
- Do you know anyone who has gone into \_\_\_\_\_? Why did it happen?
- What can we do for poor people who \_\_\_\_\_ for money?
- What have you done recently to \_\_\_\_\_ others?
- Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ money to someone who hasn't given it back?
- Can people in your country \_\_\_\_\_ to go on holiday abroad?

#### ACTIVITY V: Discuss the following questions

- What is the speaker's idea? Can you summarize?
- From your personal point of view, do you agree with his observations?
- When was the last time you spent money on someone else?
- What happens when people win the lottery?

#### ACTIVITY VI: How do you define happiness? What is important for you? What are things that make you happy in your life?

friends	school	independence	family
academic performance	stability	success	passion
wealth	travelling	shopping	other?

Write a post & share it here – in 'padlet'. Use at least **5 words / expressions** from the lesson. Feel free to read about other students' recipes for happiness gathered in the Board of Happiness (Erasmus+ project→ *Destination: Happiness*).

<https://padlet.com/jstojek/e3zm6sg5bqom>

based on:

<https://eslbrains.com>

<http://authentic-teaching.com>

source:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/michael\\_norton\\_how\\_to\\_buy\\_happiness/transcript?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_norton_how_to_buy_happiness/transcript?language=en)