

UNIT 1 MONEY-FREE

1 READING: text organisation

A Read the article. Underline the main idea in each paragraph.

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE free

Why do we care so much about money? What we value most – love, dignity, good conduct, pride, trust, friendship, care – does not come from money. If we were to try to use it to buy any of these things, most people would think we were crazy. Imagine, for example, asking, 'How much do I owe you for that?' after a friend gives you advice. Those aspects of our lives that we really cherish are so valuable because they do not have a price attached. Poets do not write for stock options. Good relationships do not need insurance policies. People do not need incentives to love each other.

Not surprisingly, most utopias were planned to succeed without money. Yet societies that went without it inevitably failed. Cities have functioned without money, but usually only in extreme circumstances, such as war, when gold, ammunition and food became the currency. Closer to home, experiments such as time banks (which have attempted to use time as a currency) and local economic trading schemes have been talked about rather than implemented.

The problem is what we value in itself and what we put a price on are often inextricably linked. My wife and I fell in love over a series of lunches in London restaurants – yet you will not find 'falling in love' listed on the bill after the sparkling water. The paid-for meals were simply a way of expressing our love, which is beyond price. The value something has in itself is often 'hidden' behind the entrance ticket we buy to make it possible. The cover price of a great book never captures its value.

The objects in our lives that we really value – the stuff we cannot bear to throw away – mark out relationships that we value: a memento from a holiday, a picture from a wedding, and toys kept from childhood. That is one reason we are so fascinated and consumed by homes, because they sustain relationships. It is also why we pay to be part of huge social gatherings – festivals, carnivals, sporting events: these are all mass shows of emotion that give us a sense of being caught up in something that is bigger than ourselves.

Adapted from www.newstatesman.com



B Read the article in Exercise A again. Choose two examples in each paragraph that support the main idea.

C Read the article in Exercise A again. Choose T (true), F (false) or NM (not mentioned) for each statement.

- 1 The author believes that certain things cannot be bought with money. T / F / NM
- 2 In the author's opinion, societies should function without money. T / F / NM
- 3 It is possible to separate the value of something and the price we pay. T / F / NM
- 4 Being at a big event makes us think we are involved in something important. T / F / NM

2 VOCABULARY: consumerism and sustainability

Complete the forum comment with the correct form of the words and phrases from the box.

barter consume skip factory farming
forage livelihood sustainable sweatshop

HOME | FORUMS | NEWS | ADVICE SEARCH

GREEN TALK

My Green Adventure
by AnyaB on 2nd January at 10.04pm

My resolution for the next 12 months is to lead a more ethical and (1) _____ life. Here's what I plan to do:

I'll only buy the food and drink that I know I'll (2) _____ so that I don't waste anything in my refrigerator. This means I'll need a shopping list! I'll go to the woods to (3) _____ for berries so I can make my own jam and then I'll (4) _____ it for some of my neighbour's homemade produce (leaving some for myself, of course). I'll avoid food that comes from (5) _____ and instead support the (6) _____ of local, ethical farmers. I'll avoid buying clothes made in (7) _____ and instead try and make my own. I'll also look for unwanted furniture in (8) _____ rather than buy anything new.

So, here goes. Wish me luck!

3 GRAMMAR: adverb phrases

A Match the types of adverb phrase (1–5) to the examples (a–e). Underline the example of the type of adverb phrase in each case.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 time | a) People exchange goods in order to save money. |
| 2 frequency | b) A large amount of bartering is done online. |
| 3 place | c) Freecycle has become more popular in recent times. |
| 4 manner | d) Some people barter on a daily basis. |
| 5 purpose | e) We use fewer resources by exchanging things with each other. |

B Complete the advertisement. Write the correct letters (a–h) in the gaps.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| a) across the country | e) on our Events page |
| b) by looking for | f) on the final weekend of each month |
| c) next Saturday | g) through a traditional barter system |
| d) on a regular basis | h) to fill your cupboards |

swapyourgoods.com

HOME | Register | Login | Events | Ideas | FAQs

Making your own produce is a rewarding experience so why not share your rewards with others? We at *swapyourgoods.com* organise events (1) _____, where you can trade your homemade goods. Not only do you get to meet and exchange ideas with people (2) _____, not just in your local area, you can also take home a variety of products (3) _____. Everything is done (4) _____, which means no money is required and things couldn't be simpler. You can find out more (5) _____ the name of your neighbourhood (6) _____. We hold events (7) _____, which means our next swap will be held (8) _____.



4 VOCABULARY: describing used items

A Complete the tips for buying used items with the words and phrases from the box.

condition drop off in good working order second-hand throw in up for grabs

- 1 If the price is too high, ask the seller to _____ something free of charge.
- 2 Ask the seller to _____ it _____ at your house if they're passing through your neighbourhood.
- 3 Always check the _____ of the item and make sure any machinery is _____. You can't complain after the sale.
- 4 If something good is _____, call quickly or you might miss out.
- 5 Keep an eye out for rare _____ items. You never know, they might be worth something.



WHAT'S RIGHT?

- I'll throw in it, as an added incentive.
 _____, as an added incentive.

B Complete the conversation with the words and phrases from Exercise A. Include *it* or *them* where appropriate.

- Yang:** Hi, Joey. I'm calling about the (1) _____ desk. Is it still for sale?
Joey: Yeah, it is. By the way, if you still want the chair that goes with it, I could (2) _____, too. You know, as an added incentive.
Yang: Wow! Thanks, that's really nice. And another thing, Joey, ... is the desk lamp still (3) _____? I'd like that, too. Is it (4) _____?
Joey: Yeah, no one bought it. And it works fine; it's in really good (5) _____, actually. But I'm asking £10 for that.
Yang: Oh, I see. Maybe I'll leave it, then.
Joey: OK, so you're taking two things, right? Would you like me to (6) _____ where you're staying?
Yang: Oh, I'd really appreciate that. I don't have any transport yet.

5 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: hedging

A **01** Listen to the conversation. Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 Holly's **eager** / **reluctant** to organise a clothes swapping party.
- 2 Claire presents her opinions **politely** / **forcefully**.
- 3 Holly **agrees** / **doesn't agree** to host the party.

B Complete the sentences with the words and phrases from the box.

argue that guess more or less pretty sure seems to me tend to think

- 1 Well, I _____ it's an OK idea.
- 2 I'd _____ it's more than OK. It's great!
- 3 I'm _____ some people will just bring dirty, old clothes.
- 4 Oh, I _____ people are a bit better than that.
- 5 I went to a similar party last year and thought the clothes were _____ in excellent condition.
- 6 It _____ you're not convinced.

C Listen again and check your answers.



6 GRAMMAR: negative questions

Complete the questions with a negative auxiliary verb. Complete the responses with yes or no.

- 1 **A:** I'm not quite sure what happens at a clothes swapping party.
B: Oh, _____ you been to one before? I thought you had.
A: _____, it's my first time.
- 2 **A:** Why are you giving away this dress? _____ you want to keep it for a special occasion?
B: _____, I'm bored with it these days.
- 3 **A:** I'm hoping to swap this jacket for a new coat.
B: _____ it too warm for a coat at the moment?
A: _____, but I'm thinking ahead to the winter.
- 4 **A:** What's wrong with this T-shirt? _____ it fit you anymore?
B: _____, it's too tight.
- 5 **A:** If we want everyone to see the clothes we've brought, _____ we hang them up somewhere?
B: _____, good idea.
- 6 **A:** I like the colour of this shirt. _____ you buy one like this last month?
B: _____, mine was much darker.

WHAT'S RIGHT?

- A: Haven't you got enough clothes?
B: Yes, I've.
- A: Haven't you got enough clothes?
B: Yes, _____.

A Read the article on page 9. Make inferences. Choose T (true) or F (false).

- 1 The internet played a key role in Kyle MacDonald's initial success. T / F
- 2 MacDonald considers his bartering experiment to be unusual. T / F
- 3 His bartering will now stop. T / F

B Read the article again and choose the correct meaning of the words from the article.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>junk</i> (line 1) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) old, broken or seemingly useless things b) things of low quality 2 <i>reminiscing</i> (line 13) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) thinking about enjoyable past experiences b) telling someone about a difficult situation 3 <i>glanced</i> (line 15) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) read something quickly and not carefully b) looked somewhere quickly | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4 <i>genuinely</i> (line 32) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) honestly, in a sincere way b) real, rather than pretend or false 5 <i>promising</i> (line 37) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) likely to be successful or very good b) willing to do something 6 <i>down-to-earth</i> (line 39) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) mature and logical with no creativity b) practical and sensible with no pretensions |
|--|--|

C Read the article again and choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 The writer says that at the start of the project, the aim appeared to be ...
 - a) achievable.
 - b) worthless.
 - c) inspiring.
 - d) mad.
- 2 Kyle MacDonald's aim was to ...
 - a) have a laugh.
 - b) move home.
 - c) travel the globe.
 - d) start a business.
- 3 Kyle MacDonald got the idea from ...
 - a) a childhood activity.
 - b) the internet.
 - c) a family friend.
 - d) a job he once had.
- 4 Kyle MacDonald's first trade wasn't ...
 - a) particularly surprising.
 - b) especially noteworthy.
 - c) a time-consuming process.
 - d) conducted over the internet.
- 5 Kyle MacDonald swapped with people who ...
 - a) exchanged high-value goods.
 - b) supported his online project.
 - c) were trustworthy.
 - d) met him while travelling.
- 6 Yahk is a place that Kyle MacDonald ...
 - a) was hoping to visit.
 - b) had been to before.
 - c) wanted to avoid.
 - d) had seen on TV.



- 7 Kyle MacDonald ...
 - a) predicted his success.
 - b) moved to Yahk.
 - c) exceeded his expectations.
 - d) continued to barter.

D Imagine Kyle is offering to swap an item you want (e.g. a DVD boxset). Write him an email saying why you want this item, and suggest an item that you can offer him in exchange. Say why he should make this exchange with you. Suggest when and where to meet. Write 180–200 words.

I've Swapped my Paper Clip for a House ...

1 Do you, like me, have a drawer somewhere at home full of pieces of **junk** which you've convinced yourself might come in useful some day? If so, the story of Canadian internet entrepreneur, Kyle MacDonald, may inspire you to take a closer look at what hangs around among the leftover screws, lonely rubber bands, and tail-ends of balls of string.

Last July, the 26-year-old former backpacker began, what seemed at the time, a crazy and impossible mission – to trade a single, red paper clip for a house. Advertising this virtually worthless piece of stationery on the internet, he succeeded in swapping it for a series of bigger and better things. This week – nine months and 10 trades later – he announced that his most recent deal has indeed secured him a one-bedroom bungalow in Phoenix, Colorado.

This is all the more remarkable given that MacDonald intended the whole thing to be 'just a bit of fun'. More hippy than businessman, he is the son of parents who ran a clothing factory in Vancouver. He graduated with a degree in geography from the University of British Columbia before travelling the world doing odd jobs – from delivering pizzas to working on oil rigs.

Unsure of what he wanted to do with his life, he returned to Canada where one day, he received an email from an old friend **reminiscing** about a game called *Bigger and Better*, which they had played as children. This involved starting with small objects and competing to see what they could trade them for.

15 MacDonald finished reading the email, **glanced** down at his desk, and saw a single red paper clip. Why not see what people would give him in exchange for it? And so a bizarre and brilliant idea was born and launched on the web. Alongside a picture of his now much celebrated paper clip, he wrote a humorous statement of his ambitions. 'I'm going to keep trading up until I get a house,' he wrote. 'Or an island. Or a house on an island. You get the idea.'

The unspectacular nature of his first trade suggested that he might have a long time to wait. His first offer was a pen in the shape of a fish, which two vegans from Vancouver had discovered on a camping trip. 'Being vegans, I guess they wanted very little to do with a fish,' said MacDonald. 'I had never traded a paper clip with a vegan before, let alone two, so I figured let's do this.'

The fish-shaped pen was soon traded for a doorknob featuring a smiley face and the doorknob, in turn, for an outdoor stove, and then a generator. From the outset, MacDonald insisted on meeting each person with whom he was dealing. 25 It was, he says, 'just a great way to meet new people.' In this, he had some help. His father, an enthusiastic inventor, had come up with a device to stop wobbly restaurant tables from rocking. MacDonald travelled to trade shows across the USA and Canada to promote this device and, along the way, would stop off to meet the people who'd contacted him via his website and with whom he wanted to do business on his paper clip project. 'I was doing trades all over the place without spending a cent of my own money on gas or plane fares,' he said.

30 As news of the website spread, MacDonald found himself having to choose from among hundreds of offers for each item he advertised, but he says their monetary value was irrelevant. 'I only dealt with people I liked the sound of, or who seemed to **genuinely** support the idea of the website.'

His dreams of home ownership took a leap forward when a local radio celebrity offered MacDonald a snowmobile.

Then, during an appearance on Canadian national TV, he jokingly said that he would travel anywhere in the world to do a deal, except for the unappealing-sounding town of Yahk in British Columbia.

This caused a viewer to offer him a trip to Yahk, which he exchanged for a truck, which he then traded for 30 hours in a Toronto recording studio. Next came the final link in the chain – at least so far. A **promising** young singer offered MacDonald a year's lease on her home in Phoenix in exchange for the studio time.

No one is more surprised by this success than the pleasingly **down-to-earth** 40 MacDonald himself. 'It's extremely unexpected. People might regard it as an eccentric way to spend your time, but remember that before money was invented, people bartered for centuries.' And although MacDonald appears to have achieved his ambition for his humble paper clip, his aim is still to own a home outright.

Adapted from www.telegraph.co.uk

