

READING

- 1 Look at these idioms about money. What do you think they mean?
(See TB for meanings.)
 - time is money
 - money is no object
 - money talks
 - have money to burn
 - money doesn't grow on trees
 - money burns a hole in your pocket
- 2 Do you know any other idioms about money in English or in your language? What do they mean? *Students' own answers*
- 3 Quickly read the text. Which verbs can be used with the word money? Can you think of any others?

Money Talks



Are you financially literate? Do you know how to open a savings account, use a credit card responsibly, or shop smartly? Check out *Money Talks*, a hands-on, interactive on-line program designed to teach US high school students how to manage their money and become financially responsible.

Money Talks: Should I be listening?

Teens aren't often concerned with "grown-up" issues, such as finance. That's a boring problem people worry about later in life. Why ruin your teen years with added responsibility? Right? Wrong. Saving money for a specific purpose or just for a rainy day should be a habit, and *Money Talks* explains why teens need to save money early and consistently. It's also vital you develop good shopping skills. **Savvy** shoppers don't waste their money. They can distinguish between needs (things we can't do without) and wants (things that are often unnecessary); they are aware of advertising tactics and are careful not to be taken in; and they know how to compare when shopping rather than buying the first thing they see.

Money Talks: Should I be banking?

Absolutely! It's never too early to learn about the benefits of banking. But first, you need to learn how banks work. Basically, you entrust them with your money, they use it and return it to you with interest. The interest rate, or the amount of interest, will vary depending on the type of account you have. A savings account allows you to set aside a portion of your money and earn higher interest if you don't make withdrawals. You just leave it in the bank and watch it grow. A checking account allows you to deposit and withdraw money, but the interest is lower; because you have access to the money, this type of account teaches money management skills and good banking habits.

Money Talks: Should I be charging?

It's so easy to slip that credit card out of your wallet and charge whatever you want to it. It's also risky. Unlike the bills and coins in your wallet, credit isn't yours. When you use a credit card, you are borrowing money and taking on the responsibility of paying it back. When you buy on credit, the bank charges you interest, so they make a profit from you. If you are late with the repayments, you have to pay more. It isn't all bad news, however. If you make your monthly credit card repayments on time and avoid debt, you will build creditworthiness. When you eventually apply for a loan – to buy a car or a house, for example – the bank will take your good credit score into account when considering your application.

Money Talks: Should I be working?

Eventually, we all get jobs. But when should you start working? A part-time job while you're still in school will give you some financial independence and teach you responsibility. If you choose to, you can leave school at the legal minimum age to find work, or you can complete high school and then seek employment. However, do consider the economic benefits of a college education. It has been shown that over a lifetime, people with bachelor's degrees can earn far more than those with just a high-school education. In the USA, the average figures are \$2.4 million and \$1.4 million respectively. There are, of course, well-known entrepreneurs who never attended college, and you may be tempted to **follow in their footsteps**, but they are the exception and not the rule.