

Are you a saver or a spender?

1. Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions.

- a) We're spending a lot more **on** food than we used to.
- b) We can always borrow some money **from** the bank.
- c) Don't waste your money **on** such purchases.
- d) Banks are willing to lend large amounts of money **to** people starting up businesses.
- e) I'm going to invest my savings **in** this project.
- f) How can I cut down **on** clothing costs?

2. Where does your money normally go? Discuss which of these things you spend the most money on.

- ordering takeaways (BrE) / takeout (AmE)
- paying utility bills
- going out with friends
- grocery shopping
- transportation
- clothes
- holidays
- renting a room or a flat

3. Match the words and phrases in bold to the correct meanings below.

- a) I feel that I sometimes **overspend** on
 - 1) coffee.
 - 2) eating out.
 - 3) entertainment.
- b) When I do the shopping,
 - 1) I have a list of **items** I need.
 - 2) I remember what I should buy.
 - 3) I think, while I'm in the shop, about what I want to buy.
- c) When I buy online,
 - 1) I spend time looking for the best **deals**.
 - 2) I only buy from one shop because I know and trust it.
 - 3) I buy much more than I need.



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- d) To **keep myself on budget**,
- 1) I write down all of my purchases.
 - 2) I cut down on some **expenses** at the end of the month.
 - 3) I use cash instead of a credit card.
- e) You want to save some money. You know that you waste too much money on petrol driving to work. The most **cost-effective** means of transport would be a bike. What do you do?
- 1) I bike to work.
 - 2) I save on other things because I love driving.
 - 3) I find a colleague to drive with and share petrol costs.
- f) You are going to buy some groceries, but you enter a clothes shop and see an amazing pair of jeans for \$100. What do you do?
- 1) I buy them **on impulse**.
 - 2) I already have so many pairs of jeans, so I don't buy them.
 - 3) I take a photo and wait until the sales.
- g) You want to go to your friend's house by Uber. If you take an Uber now, you'll be **charged** more, but if you wait, the price might be cheaper. What do you do?
- 1) I go now because I don't want to wait.
 - 2) I wait a couple of minutes to spend less money.
 - 3) I decide to use public transport and arrive a bit later.
- h) What **trade-off** would you accept if you wanted to save money for a holiday?
- 1) Not ordering takeout for one year.
 - 2) Cycling instead of driving to work for half a year.
 - 3) Partying at home instead of going out for half a year.

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MEANINGS:

- 1) it means that something is good value for the amount of money paid **COST-EFFECTIVE**
- 2) a compromise **TRADE-OFF**
- 3) ask an amount of money for something **CHARGE**
- 4) an individual thing **ITEM**
- 5) spend more money than you should or more than you wanted to **OVERSPEND**
- 6) because you suddenly want to, although you haven't planned to **ON IMPULSE**
- 7) spend only as much money as you have **KEEP ONESELF ON BUDGET**
- 8) a good, or lower than usual, price **DEAL**
- 9) a cost **EXPENSE**

4. Now, do the quiz and explain your answers.

What might the results of the quiz say about your spending habits?

5. Look at four images below. How can you save some money in these areas?



SHOPPING



HOME



TRANSPORTATION



ENTERTAINMENT

6. Watch an [interactive video](https://eslbrains.com/interactive-saver-spender) [https://eslbrains.com/interactive-saver-spender] and answer the questions that will appear on the screen.

Video quiz questions and answers are on the next page.

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7. Complete the gaps with the words in the box. Then, discuss the sentences in pairs.

budget cost-effective cut discounts expenses impulse

- a) Buying things on **impulse** is something spenders often do.
- b) It's important to save money on everyday **expenses**.
- c) Look for ways to save on the things that are less important to you, to keep yourself on **budget**.
- d) When you go shopping always look for **discounts**, but don't buy things which are not on your shopping list.
- e) The best way to save money is to write down how you spend your money in a month and **cut** down on some big expenses.
- f) Public transport isn't a very **cost-effective** method of transport if you have a family.

Video quiz questions and answers (ex.6)

- 1) Why are discounts not always a good way of saving money?
 - a. Because you buy more items from your shopping list
 - b. Because you might buy things which you don't need**
 - c. Because the price per unit may actually be higher
- 2) Which saving tips related to food are mentioned in the video?
 - a. Plan your meals ahead of time**
 - b. Don't spend more on the items you care about
 - c. Eat out only once per week
 - d. Make a shopping list**
- 3) How can we save on electricity?
 - Turn off the lights when you leave a room.**
- Unplug gadgets when you aren't using them.**
- Plan your household chores outside peak hours when the electricity price is lower.**
- 4) What are the cheaper alternatives to owning a car?

Public transport, car sharing and cycling
- 5) Choose the sentences which are true according to this video
 - a. Saving money means having less fun
 - b. Keep a budget and calculate each expense
 - c. Know what you spend your money on**
 - d. Planning your expenses will save you money**