

# Money Matters

Level 3

Each week, James and I earn pocket money. How do we earn it? We have to behave well, and we have to complete our chores. Our parents use a stamp chart. We get stamps for completing jobs. If we get enough stars at the end of the week, we earn our pocket money.



Clair	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Make bed	★	★	★		
Feed pets	★	★	★		
Set table	★	★	★		
Wash dishes	★	★	★		
Keep room tidy		★			



James	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Make bed	★	★			
Feed pets	★	★	★		
Wash dishes	★				
Keep room tidy	★	★	★		

One of the biggest lessons I've learned from my parents is the difference between a 'want' and a 'need'. 'Needs' are those things that we need to live and stay safe and healthy; for example, things like food, water and clothes. 'Wants' are things that might make our lives more comfortable or more fun, but we don't need them to live.

Sometimes it can be a little trickier to tell the difference between a want and a need. For example, I needed to buy a new chain for my bike last week. I considered that a need because I ride my bike to school every day. Sometimes needs can become wants. For example, each week James buys a chocolate bar with his pocket money. Even though it's food, chocolate is not a need. Another example is the pair of shoes James wanted a while ago. Shoes are a need, but he wanted a special brand, so our parents said he'd have to use his own money.

Knowing the difference between needs and wants is important because nobody has got an unlimited amount of money. Once it's gone, it's gone. That means that before we can buy things we want, we have to buy the things we need. Then, with any leftover money we have, we can buy things we want. Our parents buy everything we need, so James and I are pretty lucky. That means we can spend all our money on wants.

Simple right? To James it is that simple. But there's a bit more to it than that. With the leftover money, we've got a choice between spending our money now, or saving it to use later. If we spend it straight away, we can buy something small, like an ice cream or a chocolate bar. If we choose to save it to spend later, it means waiting. That can be tricky, but it can help us to buy something we really want, something that is perhaps more expensive. Instead of an ice cream, I could buy a new video game. I know which I'd prefer. Saving up is also good in case of an emergency.



# Questions

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1. List 4 jobs Clair has to do each week.

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2. Why does Clair think she and James are lucky?

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3. How many times has James made his bed so far this week?

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4. What extra job does Clair have? Why might Clair have more jobs than James?

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5. Why is having savings good in the case of an emergency? Give an example.

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6. Explain why it's important to buy things we need before things we want?

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7. Do you think James or Clair is the better saver? What evidence can you find?

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8. List 3 needs you have and 3 wants you have.

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# Answers

1. List 4 jobs Clair has to do each week.

Make her bed, set the table, feed the pets, wash the dishes, keep room tidy.

2. Why does Clair think she and James are lucky?

Their parents buy everything they need.

3. How many times has James made his bed so far this week?

James has made his bed twice so far.

4. What extra job does Clair have? Why might Clair have more jobs than James?

Set the table. Clair is older than James.

5. Why is having savings good in the case of an emergency? Give an example.

If something goes wrong, you will have money to help. For example, if the car broke down, you would have money to get it fixed.

6. Explain why it's important to buy things we need before things we want?

It is important to buy things we need before things we want otherwise there might not be enough money left for the things we really need.

7. Do you think Clair or James is the better saver? What evidence can you find?

Clair is the better saver. James buys a chocolate bar every week.

Clair said she'd prefer to miss out on buying ice creams and save up for a video game.

8. List 3 needs you have and 3 wants you have.

Answers will vary.