

Talking Money

Before the discussion

Do you know the following words and phrases?

<i>invest</i>	<i>orphanage</i>
<i>spendthrift</i>	<i>renovation</i>
<i>shopping spree</i>	<i>feasible</i>
<i>inequality</i>	<i>wealthy</i>



Understanding different viewpoints

We asked three students from around the world what they would do if they were rich. Here are their replies.



Yang

"I would use the money to help my family. My father owns a small restaurant and he had to work very hard to save enough money to send me to university and I would like the chance to pay him back. Perhaps I could use the money to invest in his business and he could manage a chain of restaurants across the country."



Martina

"I have to admit that I'm a bit of a spendthrift, so I don't think the money would last very long! I would first use the money to pay off my existing credit card bills and then I'd go on an epic shopping spree!"



Sebastian

"I believe that there is too much inequality in the world, so if I suddenly had a large amount of money, I would use it to help the poor. For example, there is an orphanage near where I live that needs renovation. I would use the money for projects like this."

Discussion

- 1 What would you do if you suddenly became rich?
- 2 Do you think university should be free? Would this be feasible?
- 3 Do you think there is too much inequality in the world? What can be done to address this?
- 4 What is the best way to invest money?
- 5 Do you try to save money? If so, how?
- 6 Give some examples of things that you think are good value and things that are not.
- 7 Do you worry about having enough money?
- 8 What is the best career for someone who wants to become wealthy?
- 9 Does your country have a strong economy?
- 10 What are some disadvantages of being rich?



Discovering language points

1 WOULD

The question that was posed to the three students was: 'What would you do if you were rich?'

Note that we often use WOULD together with IF. We call this the 'second conditional' and we use it to talk about imaginary situations.

Note how the students all used the word WOULD in their answers:

*I **would** use the money to help my family. My father owns a small restaurant and he had to work very hard to save enough money to send me to university and I **would** like to chance to pay him back.*

*I don't think the money **would** last very long! I **would** first use the money to pay off my existing credit card bills and then **I'd** go on an epic shopping spree!*

*I **would** use it to help the poor. For example, there is an orphanage near where I live that needs renovation. I **would** use the money for projects like this.*

2 THE + ADJECTIVE

We sometimes use THE + ADJECTIVE to replace ADJECTIVE + PEOPLE.

For example, THE RICH = RICH PEOPLE. THE ELDERLY = ELDERLY PEOPLE.

Note how Sebastian uses this structure in his answer:

*...if I suddenly had a large amount of money, I would use it to help **the poor**.*

Resources:

Learn more about the second conditional here: <http://www.roadtogrammar.com/notes/?REF=187>

Practise questions on the second conditional here: <http://www.roadtogrammar.com/?277>

Learn more about THE + ADJECTIVE here: <http://www.roadtogrammar.com/notes/?REF=227>

Practise questions on THE + ADJECTIVE here: <http://www.roadtogrammar.com/?326>