

TIME IS MONEY

1. Time Proverbs

Match the two halves of the proverbs.

Time flies...

The early bird...

Never put off to tomorrow...

A stitch in time...

saves nine.

what you can do today.

gets the worm.

when you're having fun.

2. Time Survey.

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions.

- \$ How many hours do you sleep every night?
- \$ How much time do you have for holidays every year?
- \$ How much time do you spend with your family every day?
- \$ Do you ever feel like you are wasting your time at home?
- \$ Do you make the most profitable use out of your free time?
- \$ How many hours do you work a week?
- \$ If you run out of time to finish something at work (school), do you take it home?
- \$ What time do you begin/end work (school) every day?
- \$ Is there a time clock where you work? Are your hours accounted for?
- \$ How much time do you use for lunch?

3. Time is Money

In English, time is like **money**, or like something that you **buy** and **use**. Look at the following expressions:

- We need to **buy** some more time for our assignment.
- I **can't afford** to **spend** any more time on this!
- It was **worth** waiting for!
- This is **wasting** my **precious** time!

Can you find any expressions in exercises 1 and 2 above that use the same metaphor?

4. Challenging the Metaphor

Look at these two quotes and discuss the questions with a partner.

When the principle of Time as Money comes to dominate the working time of a society it dominates the non-working time as well. It is a standard by which all human activities can be evaluated as useful or useless.¹

C Douglas Lummis New Internationalist Magazine #343 March 2002

We should at least recognize that neither technology nor efficiency can acquire more time for you, because time is not a thing you ever had. It is what you live in. ²

James Gleick *Faster, the Acceleration of Almost Everything* 1999

- \$ Does the metaphor Time is Money exist in your language?
- \$ Look back at the survey that you did. The first part represents non-working time, the second represents working time. Do you feel that you spend more time working than not working?
- \$ Do you do things quickly or slowly? Are you often in a rush or do you take your time?
- \$ Are people where you live or work obsessed with time?
- \$ The North American working week is getting longer and longer. People have a little time for lunch, there is lots of overtime and people take work home. Is this model of a working week true where you come from? Is it changing?
- \$ Some countries are introducing a mandatory shorter working week (32 hours). What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Time is Money teaching notes

by Lindsay Clandfield

This is a vocabulary and idiom lesson for intermediate students. The aim is to highlight the metaphorical concept in English that Time is Money. The emphasis is on meaning, with activities to incorporate these expressions into use. Another aim of this lesson is to think critically about the Time is Money metaphor and its effect on contemporary society.

COURSEBOOK LINK:

Try linking this lesson in with any coursebook unit on work. It could be used as an extension class, after students have talked about their jobs.

Stage One

Ask students to complete this puzzle:

$$X = 24Y = 1440Z = 86400ZZ$$

What is X, Y, Z and ZZ? Answer: day, hour, minutes, seconds. Tell the class that today's lesson is on Time.

Stage Two

Ask students to match the two halves of the proverbs and quotes about money in pairs. Check back answers with the whole class. What do they mean? Can the students rephrase them? Do an example for the first one: *When you are at a party and you are enjoying yourself, it feels like time goes faster.*

Answers: Time flies ... when you're having fun. The early bird... gets the worm. Never put off to tomorrow... what you can do today. A stitch in time... saves nine.

Stage Three

Ask students to work with a different partner and to ask and answer the questions in the Time Survey. Check the meaning of any unknown words. Do feedback on this exercise at the end. Did the students find anything that surprised them? If you have time, get the students to ask you the questions too.

Stage Four

Explain the metaphor Time is Money in English using the expressions. Are there any others in the proverbs or survey that use the same metaphor? For extra practise ask the students to look at the four examples of Time is Money in #3. They should write a four-line dialogue that includes one of the expressions (therefore giving them some context).

Stage Five

Ask the students what they think of the idea that Time is Money. Is it true? Do they have any similar expressions in their own language? Do they think that society is obsessed with time? Read out the two quotes on page 2 of the handout. What do the students think? Explain the expressions "in a rush/hurry" and "take your time". Then put students into groups of three to discuss the second set of questions.