

## Lesson: Time Management – Time is money

**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Age:** Teenagers / Adults

**Time:** 50-60 minutes

**Language objectives:** to highlight the metaphorical concept in English that *time is money*, with activities to incorporate this expression and other time-related expressions into use

**Key life skills:** time management, prioritisation

**Materials:** one copy of the worksheet per student



Teacher's notes

### Procedure

1. 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.

2. Ask students to match the two halves of the proverbs and quotes in activity 1. Check 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 ... catches the worm. Never put off until tomorrow ... what you can do today. A stitch in time ... saves nine.*

3. Ask students to work with a different partner and to ask and answer the questions in activity 2. 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.

4. 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 practice ask the students to look at the four examples of time is money in activity 3. They should write a four-line dialogue that includes one of the expressions (therefore giving them some context).

5. 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 in activity 4 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.



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### 1. Time proverbs

Match the two halves of the proverbs.

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

### 2. Time survey

Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions.

- How many hours do you sleep per night?
- How much time do you have for holidays per year?
- How much time do you spend with your family per 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 activities 1 and 2 above that use the same metaphor?

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### 4. Challenging the metaphor

Read these two quotes and then 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.*

C Douglas Lummis *New International 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.*

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?