

Waste: reading tasks

1. How much did you spend yesterday?
What did you spend the money on?
Were the things that you bought essential, or an extravagance?
2. In the UK baked beans on toast is a cheap, simple meal to prepare. If you were going to make a very basic meal for friends, what would that be?
3. Read about Ben, a man who has invited friends to his house for supper. What is for dessert?
4. Read the text again and then answer the following questions:
 - a How does the writer know Ben?
 - b Why didn't Ben buy anything with the extra money? Do you agree with his views?
 - c What does **especially this time of the year** mean? In your country, what would be the worst day to ask people not to spend any money for 24 hours?
 - d The **Buy Nothing Day** organisers say that it is challenging to last 24 hours without spending **any** money. Would it be difficult for you?
 - e Ben says "Only 20 percent of the world's population are consuming more than 80 percent of the world's natural resources." Who are in the 20 percent?
 - f Why does Marina hope that Ben is a good cook? Does he use a recipe?
 - g Do you ever eat food that is out of date?
 - h Why didn't Ben serve any fish or meat to his guests?
 - i Is Ben always going to cook 'free' food from now on?



j Would you be able to make a meal from the food thrown away by supermarkets or street markets in your country? If so, what could you make?

- 5 The title of the reading is **Waste**. The noun has two meanings:
- a loss, wrong use, or lack of full use
 - b used, damaged, or unwanted matter

Which meaning goes with the title of the reading?

- 6 Find these words or phrases in the text. Can you explain what they mean?

To be frugal

To be wasteful

To splash out

To buy compulsively

To spend frivolously

To waft (a smell)

To be stale

To be up to something

To be discarded

To usher somebody into a room

To spill the beans

- 7 Ask your partner to look at their list of five things they would like to buy and ask the following questions:

Can you do without it?

How many do you have already?

How much will you use it?

How long will it last?

Could you borrow it from a friend or family member?

Are you able to clean and/or maintain it yourself?

Do you still want to buy it?

- 8 **Student A:** Your teacher will give you the name of something you *really* want to buy. You don't need it but you must have it! Make a list of excuses for buying it.

Student B: Your partner wants to buy something very extravagant, and they really don't need it! It's a waste of money! Think what Ben would say and try and persuade them not to buy it.