

'I can't afford what I used to': how the cost of living has changed viewing habits

Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: The article describes how many people are giving up their subscriptions to streaming services in order to save money and interviews four people to identify their reasons for doing so.

Time: 60 minutes

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to introduce the topic of saving money in the current wave of inflation that is being experienced by some countries around the world, notably the UK and the US. The answers depend on personal choice but make sure you ask students to give reasons for the order they have chosen.

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that as a noun the word *outgoings* is only used in the plural. It has a very different meaning as an adjective, as in 'the outgoing prime minister of the UK', meaning the one due to leave. Another word for *quote* with this meaning is *estimate*.

Key:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <i>cancel</i> | 6. <i>outgoings</i> |
| 2. <i>disabled</i> | 7. <i>untapped</i> |
| 3. <i>cosy</i> | 8. <i>quote</i> |
| 4. <i>luxury (luxuries)</i> | 9. <i>reassess</i> |
| 5. <i>afford</i> | 10. <i>make the most of</i> |

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g., in item 1, they may say 'It's going up' or similar.

Key:

1. *False. It is increasing.*
2. *True*
3. *True*
4. *False. She might return.*
5. *True*
6. *False. It's the only streaming service she has now.*
7. *True*
8. *False. He is doing it for financial reasons.*
9. *True*
10. *False. It's free.*

4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Encourage them to check their answers by looking in the text. Note that *previously* can also be used at the end of the chunk, but the answer given is the order used in the text.

Key:

1. *in the second quarter of 2022*
2. *the rising cost of living*
3. *partly due to the cost*
4. *things that previously weren't luxuries*
5. *the one I watch the most*
6. *a particular show he wants to watch*

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

6. In your own words

- a. The task could also be done as homework and students could then present their reports to the class.