

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

Level 1: Elementary / Pre-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. Point out that a *subscriber* subscribes to a service and pays a subscription. *Cut back* is followed by *on* when it has an object. *Cut down* has the same meaning. If you *reassess* something, you think about it carefully again before reaching a decision about it.

Key:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>Inflation</i> | 6. <i>outgoings</i> |
| 2. <i>subscriber</i> | 7. <i>retired</i> |
| 3. <i>cancel</i> | 8. <i>pension</i> |
| 4. <i>disability</i> | 9. <i>extend</i> |
| 5. <i>cut back</i> | 10. <i>reassess</i> |

3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to work individually to answer the questions and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. The answers given are not the only possible answers. For example, in item 3, students may say 'because she hasn't watched it for ages' or similar.

Key:

- 12%
- one million
- because she is not using it
- if they have some interesting shows
- because she has a disability
- £40 a month
- if they offered a discount rate for pensioners
- for financial reasons
- they have rocketed
- to watch the Star Wars films

4. Key language

- a. Students can check their answers in the text after completing the exercise.

Key:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. <i>d</i> | 4. <i>e</i> |
| 2. <i>f</i> | 5. <i>b</i> |
| 3. <i>a</i> | 6. <i>c</i> |

5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas and encourage them to give reasons for their answer.

6. In your own words

- a.-b. This could also be done as a homework task.