

Needs and wants

What do we really need, and what is just nice to have?

Answers and teaching notes

For the teacher

- **Aim:** Pupils tell needs from wants and understand that needs come first when money is limited.
- **Curriculum links:** Financial Education Planning Framework, ages 7 to 9: becoming a critical consumer (needs, wants and priorities). PSHE: economic wellbeing. Maths: money.
- **Watch first:** the Penny Explains video “Needs and wants” at pennyexplains.com.
- **Starter:** Ask: if you could only take three things to a desert island, what would they be? Which are needs?
- **Support:** Do activity 2 as a class with the picture cards cut out.
- **Stretch:** Ask pupils when a want could become a need (a coat in winter, a phone for a job).
- **Total:** 32 points. Suggested answers are shown in red; accept any answer that is well reasoned.

I can...

- ☐ I can say what a need is and what a want is.
- ☐ I can sort things into needs and wants.
- ☐ I can explain why needs come first.

Key words

Need: something you must have to live and be safe.

Want: something that is nice to have, but you can live without it.

Choice: picking one thing instead of another.

1 Match the word to its meaning

4 points

Draw a line from each word to its meaning.

Need	Something you must have to live and be safe
Want	Something nice to have, but not a must
Money	What we use to pay for things
Save	Keep money to use later

2 Need or want?

8 points

Write each thing in the right box.



Penny says: Some things are tricky. Shoes are a need. The newest, fanciest shoes are a want!

A warm coat · A games console · New trainers · Food · Sweets · Water · A home · A TV

Needs	Wants
Water, A home, Food, A warm coat	Sweets, A games console, New trainers, A TV

3 True or false?

4 points

Circle True or False.

Food is a need.	**True**	False
A toy is a need. **A toy is a want.**	True	**False**
We should pay for needs first.	**True**	False
Everyone wants exactly the same things. **People want different things.**	True	**False**

4 Count the coins

3 points

Mia is saving for something she wants. How much is in each row?

a) 50p 20p 10p — Total: 80p

b) £1 50p 5p 2p — Total: £1.57

c) £2 £1 20p 20p 1p — Total: £3.41

5 Odd one out

2 points

Circle the odd one out in each row. Say why.

Bread	Water	Sweets	Fruit

Why? Sweets are a want. The others are needs.

6 Word search

8 points

Find the words. They go across or down.

L	P	V	I	M	W	B	A	I	E
S	E	O	R	O	N	Y	L	C	Y
S	C	R	K	N	S	W	A	N	T
U	B	P	Y	E	S	L	K	U	W
E	G	M	C	Y	P	R	A	A	S
W	H	S	H	M	E	N	F	K	A
W	O	M	O	T	N	E	F	B	V
C	M	M	I	O	D	E	O	K	E
S	E	G	C	S	U	D	O	N	M
P	K	U	E	P	I	O	D	V	K

- [ ] NEED
- [ ] WANT
- [ ] MONEY
- [ ] SAVE
- [ ] SPEND
- [ ] FOOD
- [ ] HOME
- [ ] CHOICE

7 What would you do?

3 points

Read the story, then answer the questions.



Sam has **£5**. His school shoes have a hole in them. New laces and glue to fix them cost **£4**. He also sees a toy he really likes for **£5**.

a) What should Sam spend his money on first? Why? 2 marks

> Fixing his shoes, because shoes are a need and the toy is a want.

b) How much will Sam have left if he fixes his shoes? 1 mark

> £1 (£5 – £4 = £1).

8 Before you go

One thing I learned today	One question I still have	How sure do I feel?
		Not yet · Getting there · Got it



Take it home

Look in your kitchen cupboard with a grown-up. Can you find three **needs** and three **wants**?

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