Waste not, want not

Idiom of the month

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1. **Tick five things that people often waste.**

1. Paper  
2. Food  
3. Electricity  
4. Money  
5. Bike  
6. Water

2a. **Read**

Don’t throw that pizza in the bin!

Why not? I'm full

You can re-heat it later as a snack.  
Waste not, want not.
2b. Complete

We should never throw things away unless absolutely necessary; ____________________________

When we want to stop someone from discarding something that could still be useful we say ‘waste not, want not’. By saving items for a later time, we will always have everything we need.

3. **Read these idioms. Match each idiomatic phrase (a – f) to the correct definition (1 – 6).**

   a. I know my paper recycling is just a drop in the ocean but every little helps.

   b. Why on earth do people still use plastic water bottles?

   C. I always save any gift bags I receive; waste not, want not.

   d. Jed is a total litter lout- he always leaves his rubbish on the beach.

   e. We buy a lot of second-hand furniture- one man’s rubbish is another man’s treasure.

   1. ...Why indeed...

   2. ... If you don’t waste things, you won’t need to buy them in the future...

   3.... a small gesture ...

   4....something that someone considers to be rubbish can be useful/ valuable to another person

   5.......person who drops litter everywhere...
4. **Complete these sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.**

a. ..............................do people buy so much packaged food?

b. I always use all the leftover food in my fridge ............................................................

c. .............................. are a big problem for wild animals; they think rubbish is food and eat it.

d. I found a great second hand dress at the charity shop ...........

e. Buying organic local food is just .......... but it helps the farmers in my town.

5. **What do you waste a lot of? How can you change your behaviour? Talk to a partner.**

   Useful language:
   I waste a lot of.....
   I can start to .....
Teacher’s Notes

1. Tick 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

2b. Complete
We should never throw things away unless absolutely necessary; waste not, want not.

3. Match each idiomatic phrase to the correct definition.
   a3  b1  c2  d 5  e 4

4. Complete the sentences with an idiom from exercise 3.
   a. Why on earth do people buy so much packaged food?
      b. I always use all the leftover food in my fridge; waste not, want not.
      c. Litter louts are a big problem for wild animals; they think rubbish is food and eat it.
      d. I found a great second hand dress at the charity shop – one man’s rubbish is another man’s treasure.
      e. Buying organic local food is just a drop in the ocean but it helps the farmers in my town.