

# Waste not, want not

Idiom of the month

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

- |                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| 1. Paper       | 4. Money |
| 2. Food        | 5. Bike  |
| 3. Electricity | 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.

1. ...Why indeed...

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

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

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

3.... a small gesture ...

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

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

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

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.