

Waste not, want not

Idiom of the month

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1. Complete this list of things that people often waste.

- | | |
|----------|----|
| 1. Paper | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

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? Complete this chart**

WASTE	HOW	SOLUTION
Water	When I clean my teeth	Turn off the tap

6. **Present your chart to a partner.**

Useful language:
I waste a lot of.....

I do this when

I can change this by -ing

Teacher's Notes

1. Sample answer:

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| 1. Paper | 4. Money |
| 2. Food | 5. Gas |
| 3. Electricity | 6. Water |

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 d5 e4

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.

5. Sample answer

WASTE	HOW	SOLUTION
Paper	When I draw	Use scrap paper
Food	When I don't finish my lunch	Save and re-heat leftovers
Electricity	When I use different devices	Put them on standby or turn them off. Only use 1 device at a time.
Money	When I buy new stuff that I don't need.	Recycle or upgrade old items

Gas

When I use the central heating
too much.

Put on a jumper

Water

When I clean my teeth

Turn off the tap