Waste not, want not

Idiom of the month

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

1. Paper
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
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.

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? Complete this chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WASTE</th>
<th>HOW</th>
<th>SOLUTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>When I clean my teeth</td>
<td>Turn off the tap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
   2. Food
   3. Electricity
   4. Money
   5. Gas
   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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gas</th>
<th>Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When I use the central heating too much.</td>
<td>When I clean my teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Put on a jumper</td>
<td>Turn off the tap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>