

Cognitive linguistics / conceptual metaphor



Notes for the teacher

Aims

1. To introduce language to talk about time
 - by building on the language learners already know to talk about money
2. To enable learners to understand metaphorical language used to talk about time, which they might encounter beyond this lesson,
 - by showing how the conceptual metaphor TIME IS MONEY structures the way we talk about time
3. To encourage learners to explore connections between language and ways of thinking and living
 - by comparing and discussing usage in different languages, and thinking about possible reasons for the words we use

Procedure

Handout 1

Learners do exercise A individually or in pairs, then share their sentences (exercise B). At this point, they should only be thinking about money, so it's best not to distract them by mentioning time.

Handout 2

Learners do exercise C individually or in pairs. It's likely that they won't be sure which pieces of language they've used to talk about money can also be used to talk about time, so they'll need to check with the teacher.

For exercises D and E the learners should think on their own or in pairs at first, and then discuss their ideas as a group. Everything should be coming from the learners at this point, but possible thoughts are:

Time is valuable, so it makes sense to think of it like money.

We are mortal, so time is limited and is more valuable than money.

Thinking about time as if it were money might make us more productive, but might also make us feel guilty about relaxing.

Capitalism promotes the idea that time is money, to help maximise profits for employers and capitalists.

There is an extension / homework activity for consolidation.

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Handout 1

A



Examples:

Last week I spent £40 on some shoes.

My brother gives a lot of money to charity.

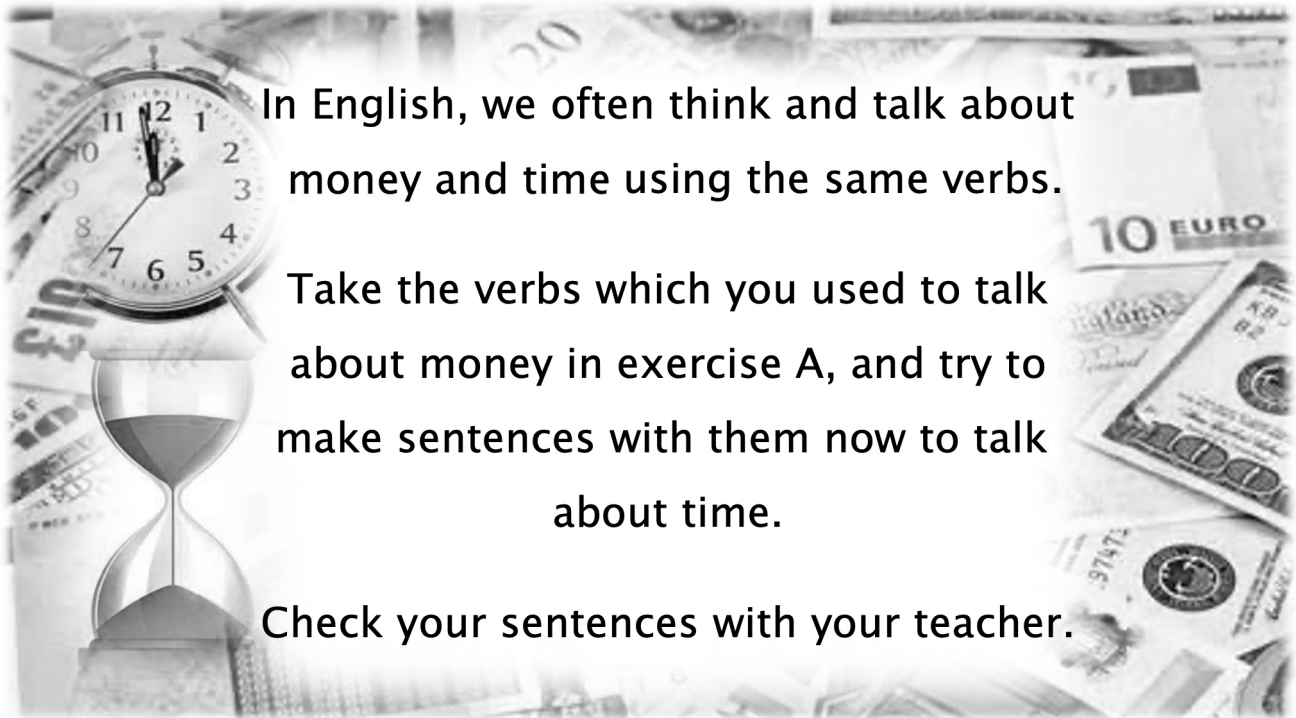
B Share your sentences with another student.

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Handout 2

C



In English, we often think and talk about money and time using the same verbs.

Take the verbs which you used to talk about money in exercise A, and try to make sentences with them now to talk about time.

Check your sentences with your teacher.

Examples:

Last night I spent two hours on my homework.

My mother gives a lot of her time to helping her friends.

The teacher gave us an extra five minutes to finish the exercise.

D In other languages which you know about, do people use the same words to talk about time and money in this way? Can you think of an example, and translate it into English?

E Why do people use the same words to talk about time as they do to talk about money, in English and in some other languages?

What do you feel about this?

Discuss your ideas.

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Extension / homework

In each of these sentences, identify the word or phrase which we can also use to talk about money.

1. We don't have to stop – we have plenty of time.
2. Watching that video was a waste of time.
3. We've invested a lot of time in this, so I hope it will turn out well.
4. Going by bus will save us time.
5. I'm having difficulty with this – can you give me a second?
6. How is she spending her time now that she's retired?
7. He doesn't look after himself, and has a very unhealthy lifestyle – I'm afraid he's living on borrowed time.
8. I thought this would take ages, but it's only cost me a few minutes.
9. Hurry – there's no time to lose!
10. We have to stop now – we've run out of time.

Compare each of these words and phrases with translations in another language or languages you know. Can you use them to talk about both money and time in the same way as you can in English?