

Waste Not, Want Not

Level

Intermediate

Time

30 minutes

Language Functions

Asking and answering questions; reporting;
comparing and describing

Materials

Copies of the worksheet

In Class

- 1** Write **Waste Not, Want Not** on the board. Tell the students you want to discuss how thrifty they are. Check that they know what thrift is and explain if they don't. Ask if the implications of thrift have changed over recent years. Ask the students if they can think of any examples of frugality or even excessive thrift from their own lives and whether they regard themselves as thrifty people.
- 2** Hand out the worksheets and tell the students first to read through the questions and tick 'yes' or 'no' for each one.
- 3** Divide the class into pairs and ask them to compare and explain their answers.
- 4** Ask the students to report back briefly on the most interesting parts of their discussions.

NOTE: If your students come from a wide range of different backgrounds, you should bear in mind that what is an absurd degree of thrift for one student may be almost a question of survival for another.

Read through the following questions and give yourself one point for every question to which you answer 'Yes'. Add up your score and compare with the analysis at the end of the worksheet.

When you are finished with the scoring, go on to discuss the questions with your partner. Use the items to develop conversation. Short answers are not enough.

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ● Do you remove and keep the paperclips if you're going to throw away papers which are clipped together? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you carefully remove wrapping paper from a gift so you can re-use it? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you collect used sheets of A4 paper to use the clean side as scrap notepaper? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you squash fragments of old soap onto the new bar you start using? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you deliver letters to people living in your neighbourhood rather than posting them? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you keep used nails and screws so you can use them again? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Would you continue using a biro that was almost empty, but not quite? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● When vacuum cleaning the house, would you go out of your way to save a rubber band on the floor? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you eat the last couple of slices of bread even if they're a bit dry? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you usually try to get the last little bit of toothpaste out of the tube? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ● Do you keep plastic bags to use them again? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Score

12-15 points: You are very thrifty and extremely careful not to waste anything.

8-11 points: Average. Quite thrifty but not excessively so.

5-7 points: Not very thrifty at all. Almost wasteful in some situations.

0-4 points: Definitely not thrifty at all. A life of waste!