DONATING

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill (1874 – 1965), former British prime minister

1. Donating Discussion

1. Have you ever donated to any charities? If so, which ones and why?
2. What are the main motivations for people who make donations to charities?
3. How does it make you feel when you make a donation? Do you feel like you're making a difference?
4. What are some ways of donating that don't involve giving money?
5. Are there any holidays or times of the year when it is traditional to give to charity?
6. Can you think of any disasters that resulted in lots of donations? What are the best ways people can help after a disaster? Is it better to send money or items like food or clothes? Why?
7. Do you know what charities do with donations? Where does the money go? How much do you think is spent on the actual cause? What about donated clothes or other items?
8. Is it the duty of all people to give to charities? Why or why not?

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2. Donating Vocabulary

- **to dig deep (into one's pocket)** (verb) – *to find a lot of money for something.*
- **to raise money** (verb) – *to collect money for something from sources other than oneself.*
- **to sponsor** (verb), **sponsorship** (noun), **sponsored** (adjective) – *to give money to be donated to a cause in exchange for the receiving person performing some kind of activity.*
- **fundraiser / fundraising event** (noun) – *an organised event with the intention of raising money for a cause.*
- **philanthropist** (noun, person), **philanthropy** (noun, concept) – *expressing goodwill or love to fellow human beings; wealthy people making large charitable donations to a cause.*
- **generous** (adjective), **generosity** (noun) – *the willingness to give more than is necessary or expected.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. Harold's work mates _____ him to shave all his hair off for charity.
2. After having donated $27 billion of his personal wealth to charitable causes, Bill Gates is officially the most _____ person in the world.
3. Hillary Clinton hosted a political _____ which raised millions for Joe Biden's presidential campaign.
4. The recession has exposed the limits of _____ as billionaire donations have decreased by 32% compared to the last year.
5. My local church asked for donations to _____ to repair the roof.
6. We ask everyone to _____ and donate everything they can to this wonderful cause.

Donating vocabulary comprehension questions

1. When have you dug deep for a worthy cause?
2. Have you ever helped raise money for charity?
3. Have you ever sponsored anyone, or has anyone ever sponsored you? If so, what was the activity?
4. Have you ever been to a fundraiser? How was it? What was the cause?
5. Can you think of any famous philanthropists? What causes have the supported?
6. Who is the most generous person you know? Who are some famous people you know of that show a lot of generosity?

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3. Video: The Truth Behind Billionaire Philanthropy

You are going to watch a video by TruTV called "Why Billionaire Philanthropy is Not So Selfless."

Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-donating/

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. How do we treat billionaires who do something charitable?
   a) like devils *b) like saints* *c) like angels*
2. What percentage of Facebook shares did Mark Zuckerberg "give away" to charity?
   a) 97% *b) 98%* *c) 99%*
3. Billionaire foundations are often what?
   a) a tax dodge *b) a tax increase* *c) a tax plan*
4. When a billionaire donates to their own foundation, how much of that fund are they required to spend?
   a) 5% *b) 10%* *c) 15%*

Sentence completion

5. Donor's needs are rarely the things that _____ needs most.
6. Less than _____ of charitable contributions go towards basic public needs.
7. 75% of donations over $_____ to universities, museums and hospitals.
8. Billionaires donate massive amounts of money to organisations dedicated to changing _____ to suit their personal political needs.

Short answer

9. Thanks to large donations, who do billionaires have more power than?
10. How much is donated each year with the aim of influencing politics?
11. What is even more important than money for billionaires?
12. Billionaires have fought for public policies that caused what?

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4. Donating Conversation Questions

1. Have you ever donated blood? Should everyone do this?
2. Should everyone be an organ donor? Why or why not?
3. Are there any people in your country that are well-known for their philanthropy?
4. What do you think about billionaire philanthropists? What do you think motivates them?
5. Is it acceptable that companies or wealthy individuals make charitable donations in order to reduce their tax bill? Why or why not? Is this something you would consider to lower your own tax bill?
6. Can you think of any negative consequences of donating?
7. What reasons might people have for not wanting to make donations to charities?
8. Is it better to give directly to the people that need charity, or is it better to donate to charities?

5. Donating Writing Task

Write about your opinion of donating. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Why people should make charitable donations.
- How donations have helped people in the past.
- Your opinion of billionaire philanthropists.

Alternative exam essay question

Donations from rich people to political parties are a threat to democracy and should be made illegal. Do you agree or disagree with this?

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