

Talking about Money - Scenarios

Choose a scenario you identify with & discuss it in pairs

(1) Rita & Julie

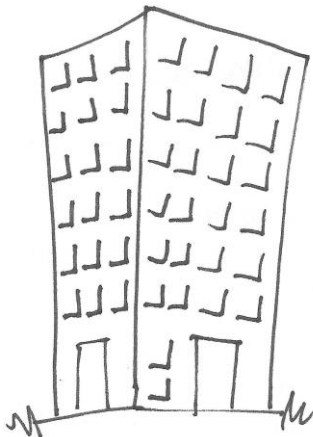
Rita's sister Julie has a daughter the same age as Rita's. Julie is constantly buying Rita's daughter gifts, as she likes the girls to have the same toys. Rita cannot really afford to do the same, but feels she has to. What makes it worse is that their daughters have very different tastes, so the gifts that Julie buys for Rita's daughter do not often get played with.



Rita could put the money to lots of better uses, but doesn't know how to talk to her sister about this, especially as it has been going on for years. She and her sister have always been close and the last thing she wants to do is fall out with her. She is worried that her sister will be upset that she has felt this way and not said anything and will get angry with her.

What can Rita do about this situation?

(2) Desiree & Michael



Desiree and Michael have been in a relationship for 2 years now and would like to move in together. Desiree lives with her mum and pays towards food and bills. Michael lives with his grandparents and pays enough to cover what they don't receive in housing benefit. They both have moderately well paid jobs and at the moment there is enough money to go out every weekend and as well as keep up with their own interests. They both like to have new clothes and look good. Desiree has a small building society savings account where she put the money she received when her dad died.

When they went to the local estate agents they were surprised at the level of rents and the amount of the deposit. Desiree is still keen to press on but Michael is feeling worried—can they afford to move in together, and what about this restructuring being discussed at work? Desiree says he shouldn't worry, her savings account will cover the deposit and the council can always pay the rent through housing benefit if they fall short.

What issues do Desiree and Michael need to consider? How should Michael start the conversation?

SESSION 5: Communication

(3) Karim

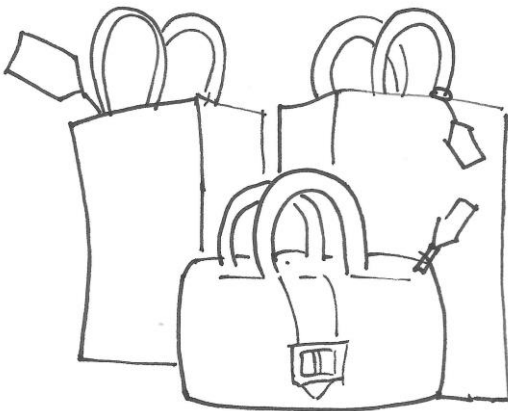
Karim's 22 and living in his own flat. He's struggled to find steady work but has had lots of jobs here and there to make ends meet.

He's always needed a new phone as he's out and about a lot and doesn't have internet in his flat. But he's struggled to keep up with the contract payments, so when he gets into arrears, he goes to another phone company and gets another one. He now has taken out several mobile phone contracts that he can't afford to pay. What's worse is that the phones he got on contracts have been stolen, or got damaged and he hasn't got any insurance to cover it.



Recently his work hours have got cut, and he's struggling even more. He's stopped paying his sky box and this month is in rent arrears with his housing association. He can't face telling his mum.....it will only worry her, and she'll give him money she hasn't got either. He's not really sure where his money is going, he just never has enough. What should he do?

(4) Kevin & Kim



Kevin and Kim have been together for 7 years. They have a good set of friends around them, with similar aspirations, and the earnings to finance them. Their children go to the same nursery, and they try to go on holiday together once a year.

The company Kevin works at has hit hard times and has cut all overtime and reduced his basic pay. Kim thinks it is important for their daughter that they maintain their current living standards and keep the friends they have. Kevin is finding their money harder to manage and is starting to take out little loans just to get them over certain hiccups but is surprised at how their costs mount up. He is getting increasingly stressed both at their money situation and what appears to be Kim's ability to ignore it.

What issues do Kevin and Kim need to consider? How should Kevin start the conversation?