

## Talking about Money - Scenarios

Choose a scenario you identify with & discuss it in pairs

### (1) Rita & Julie

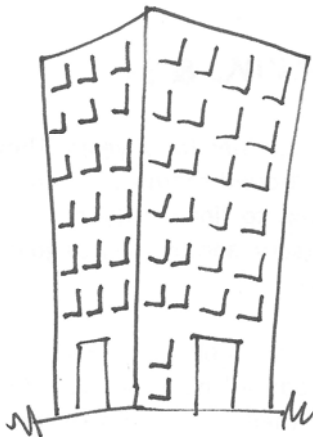
Rita's sister Julie has a daughter the same age as Rita's. Julie is constantly buying Rita's daughter gifts, as she likes the girls to have the same toys. Rita is a single mum with lots of demands on her income. She cannot really afford to do the same, but feels she has to. What makes it worse is that 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?

# MADE OF MONEY

## (3) Karim

Karim's 22 and living in a flatshare. 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 Go and this month hasn't paid his share of the rent and council tax. He is avoiding his flat mates and 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) Mia and Jay



Mia is going to be 60 this year and hopes to retire soon. Her husband died five years ago and since then she has been living alone. She lives in a two bedroom house that she owns but she still has some of the mortgage to pay off. She has three adult children with one grandchild on the way.

Mia's youngest child is 28, her name is Jay. Jay was living with friends nearby but six months ago she lost her job and could no longer afford to pay the rent so Jay moved back in with her mum.

Recently Jay has found a new job and is now well paid.

Jay has never contributed financially to the house bills or offered to pay any rent. Mia is just about coping but has begun

to notice the extra costs – her gas and electric bills are much higher, her food shopping has doubled and the last phone bill was huge!

Mia wants to be able to save some money for her retirement and is also keen to have space in the house to have her new grandchild to stay. Despite this, she is really worried about upsetting Jay and does not want her to feel unwanted.

What do you think Mia should do? How should she broach the subject?