

Week 1 - Needs and Wants

Adult Education

April is National Financial Literacy Month, which is designed to create awareness about the importance of personal financial education. Over the next 4 weeks, we will be exploring different financial education topics with specific age-minded activities and links, designed for your use at home.

This week's topic is Needs and Wants. Understanding the differences between needs and wants may be a lesson we learned long ago, but that does not mean that adults do not struggle with recognizing the differences and making decisions that reflect their values and their budget. Included are a couple of activities that may be helpful and bring a better understanding to this simple, yet very important concept.

<https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/finance/financial-needs-versus-wants/>

Did you know...

The Wings Financial Foundation also has an online learning education tool, Learning for Real Life™. This tool provides a variety of financial wellness modules. These modules are designed to be quick and easy to complete while allowing you to create personal action plans. Visit the link referenced below to access the Learning for Real Life™ modules.

<http://wingsfinancial.everfi.com/>

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Reflecting on needs versus wants

Understanding the difference between needs and wants helps you be strategic about your spending.

Instructions

1. Think of at least 10 recent expenses and then categorize each one as a need or a want.
2. Analyze your spending.
3. Reflect on needs and wants.

Categorize your spending

Think of at least 10 things you or your family has bought or spent money on recently. Record them in either the “Needs” or “Wants” column in the table below.

- Examples of needs might be food and school supplies.
- Examples of wants might be specialty coffees, designer clothing, and video games.

Needs	Wants

Analyze your spending

Review your table to answer these questions. Be prepared to share your answers with the class.

1. Do you have more needs or wants listed? Why might that be?
2. Do you see any similarities or patterns among expenses in your needs column and those in your wants column?
3. Do you think your answers may be similar to or different from other students? Why might that be?

Reflection questions

1. Do you think most people spend more money on needs or wants? Why might that be?
2. How do you feel about the way you spend money on needs and wants? Is there anything you'd like to change about your spending habits when it comes to needs versus wants?