

SPEAKING

# Talking about alternative economies

**LEVEL**

Upper-Intermediate  
(B2)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B2\_2114S

**LANGUAGE**

English



## Learning outcomes

- I can talk about the economy and express viewpoints on a range of related topics.
- I can give my opinion on alternative economies.



## Warm-up

**What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word *economy*?**

**Share you answer with the rest of the class!**





# Gross domestic product (GDP)

A country's **Gross Domestic Product** is an indicator of its wealth.

**Answer** the questions below.

Do you know  
how your country  
compares to  
others based on  
its GDP?

What things  
influence a  
country's  
GDP?

Which country do  
you think has the  
largest GDP in  
the world?

Which country do  
you think has the  
smallest GDP in  
the world?





# What's your opinion?

*Many countries charge fees for Higher Education, which means that students graduate with debts.*

1. **Read** the statements below.
2. Do you **agree** or **disagree**? **Why**?



Students should pay for some of the cost of their education if they make money as a result.

A young person should start life with as few debts as possible.

Higher education should be free for everyone.

Students value education more when it costs money.

# Alternatives to the market economy

1. **Read** the text in yellow box.
2. Then **complete** the prompt.

a vegetarian diet

communal ownership of property

living in an area where property is cheap

living in a supportive community

living in an area where cars are not necessary

Living in a climate that supports renewable energy production

Many people want to have a more sustainable, relaxed lifestyle. The idea of growing one's own vegetables and using sustainable technologies to generate energy is attractive. What things would make this lifestyle possible?

**Look at the ideas on the left. Choose the two you think would make the biggest impact and explain why.**





# Discuss

**Answer** the questions below.



Do you think living off the land is actually more relaxing than living in a city?

Would you like to grow your own vegetables and use sustainable technology to generate your own energy?

Which modern conveniences would you find difficult to give up?

Are many people interested in sustainable technologies where you live?





# Bartering and negotiation

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **answer** the questions below.

**Is bartering common where you live?**



**Have you ever tried to negotiate a lower price? What happened?**





Jenny **haggled over** the price of the ring at the **flea market**!

If you **haggle over** the price of something, you try to negotiate on a price that works for both you and the person selling the goods.

Have you ever **haggled over** the price of something at a **flea market**?

# Discuss

1. **Read** the text in the yellow box.
2. **Answer** the questions in the pink boxes.

Many supermarkets throw away food that has reached its expiry date, but which is still tasty and hygienic to consume. Looking for food that is being thrown out is called **dumpster diving** or **skipping**.

What do you think about dumpster diving?

Should people be allowed to collect food from bins, or should supermarkets be required to recycle it?

Is there an initiative where you live that takes expired food from supermarkets and distributes it to people in need?



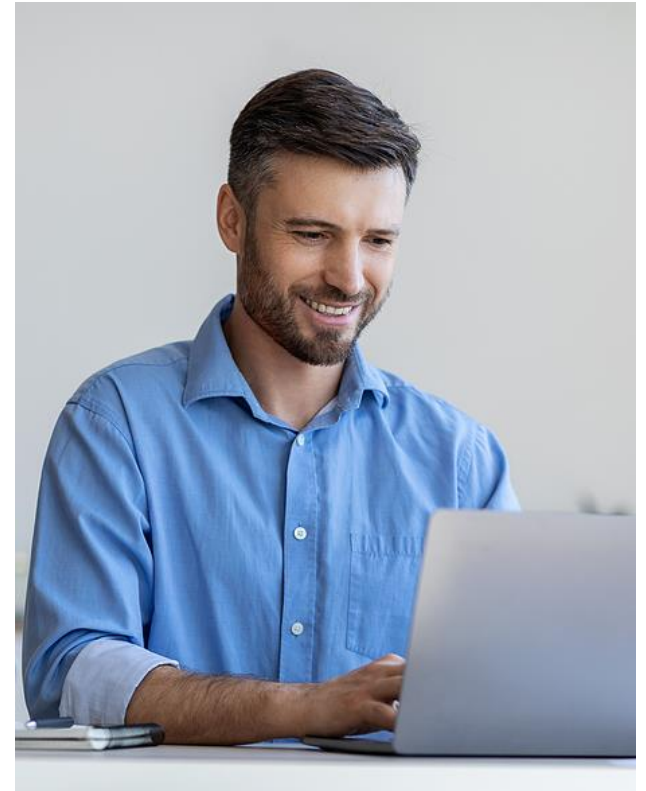


# Discuss

**Answer** the questions below.

**Do you think the internet  
will eventually lead to a  
more democratic  
economic system?**

**Why or why not?**







# End of the lesson

Idiom

***All that glitters is not gold.***

**Meaning:** something that seems great on the surface might not be when you look more closely

**Example:** The city's plan for better infrastructure seems good, but all that glitters is not gold.



# Additional practice





# Discuss

1. **Read** the text in the yellow box.
2. Then **answer** the questions below.

**Many organisations rely on public donations to keep doing their work. In some countries, universities are also reliant on public donations to do their research.**

If you had the money to make donations, who would you give your money to? Why?

Are donations an important part of the economy in your view?

Do many organisations in your country rely on public donations?





# Supply and demand

The economy works on the principle of **supply** and **demand**.

When there is **too much supply** and **not enough demand**, businesses cannot get enough customers. When there is **too much demand** and **not enough businesses**, economic potential isn't realised.

Make a list of things that are in **demand** where you live, and a list of things that are in **oversupply**.

How could your city increase the number of things or people that are in demand?



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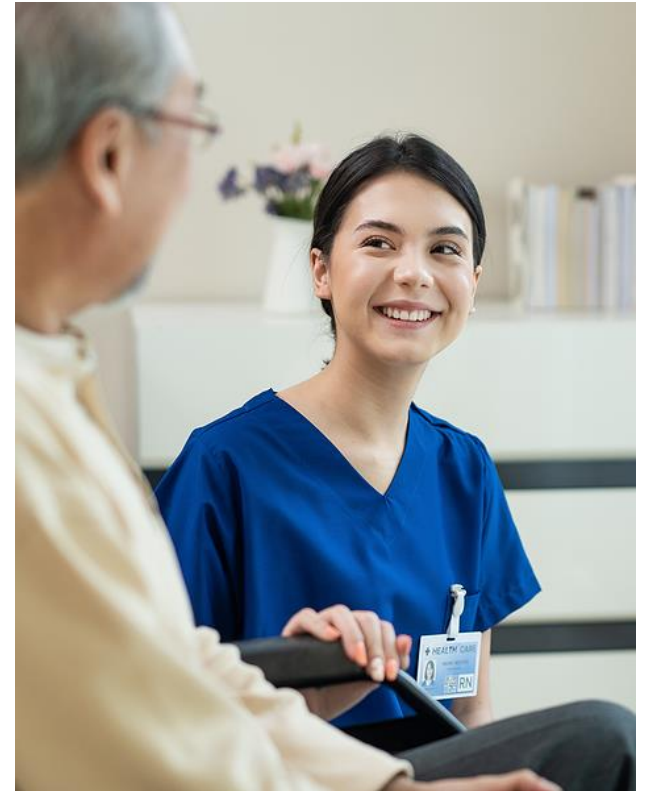


# Overseas skills

**Answer** the questions below.

**One way of addressing skills shortages in areas of demand is employing foreign workers for a short time.**

**Do you think this is a good solution? Why or why not?**







# Answer key

**p.4:**

*Country with largest GDP (as of 2022):* United States, followed by China, Japan, and Germany

*Country with smallest GDP (as of 2022):* Burundi, followed closely by South Sudan and Somalia.



# Summary

## Alternative economies

- *gross domestic product; fee; communal ownership; to haggle over; flea market; dumpster diving*
- A country's **Gross Domestic Product** is an indicator of its wealth.
- Looking for food that is being thrown out is called **dumpster diving**.



# Vocabulary

gross domestic product

fee

communal ownership

to haggle over

flea market

dumpster diving



