

Crypto addicts

a. Reading time!

Cryptocurrency trading has become very popular. **By buying** and **selling** different currencies, traders can make huge profits. However, trading addiction is becoming increasingly common. Here, addict Josh Johnson talks about his experience.

'I heard about cryptocurrencies years ago when Bitcoin first came out, but I can't say I was intrigued from the start. Even when cryptocurrencies were mentioned more and more in the news and on social media, I didn't pay much attention. It wasn't until my friends started trading that I got into it. Seeing them earning loads of money overnight by doing practically nothing made me **want to** get in on it too. I'd been trading for a while by the time the pandemic started, but that was when the trouble started.

'It was crazy to begin with. My first investment quadrupled within a couple of weeks. I couldn't believe it. It gave me a feeling of power, and I felt as if I could achieve anything. I poured more money in, and the same thing kept happening. Of course, it was all chance. I happened to put my money in before the currencies hit an all-time high. Then they plummeted. I was convinced they'd recover, so I kept pumping more money in. But what had worked before no longer did. I lost everything.

'Since getting help, I've thought about how I got addicted. There was a point when I had over three hundred thousand pounds. If I'd quit then, I could have bought the house that I had my heart set on. But rather than the money itself, it was the drama that hooked me. And winning didn't give me as big a thrill as losing. You would think I'd feel devastated when the money disappeared, but instead, I'd feel a new sense of purpose and drive to prove myself once again.

'Lots of people enjoy these highs and lows of trading without becoming addicts, so it's hard to know when you've gone too far. Like with many addictions, crypto addicts become isolated and withdrawn and neglect their work. But I was off work and living by myself, so if those signs were there, they weren't noticeable. For me, I missed the high when the money ran out and I couldn't trade, so I found it through drugs, and my sister found out. I'd been addicted to them in the past, and it got to the point of me lying and stealing from others. She didn't want that to happen again, and she stepped in.

'There's a worrying, rising trend in cryptocurrency trading addiction. It's not surprising really, given the irresponsible advertising techniques that companies have used. I'm glad authorities are cracking down on those. But it concerns me that the apps send you notifications when you make money, inviting you to share your good news with others. But when you lose, you get nothing. It gives you a false sense that you are doing well. I think there should be rules that don't allow that.

'Compared to traditional gambling, cryptocurrency trading is seen as socially acceptable. It's something that smart but adventurous people do. And whereas a lot of gamblers play alone or

against other people, trading is social. But this leads to a herd mentality, where people stop thinking things through for themselves. The companies make lots of information available to educate people about the risks of trading. It's far easier to act on a friend's tip-off or hunch. All this means that people don't realize that they are on a slippery slope until it's gone too far.

Reading comprehension

a. Answer the following questions

1. Josh started trading in cryptocurrencies...
 - a. when Bitcoin first came out.
 - b. after seeing it in the media.
 - c. influenced by his peers' success
 - d. while working from home during the pandemic.
2. What was Josh's experience while trading?
 - a. He immediately lost all the money he invested.
 - b. He made many small wins and slightly larger losses.
 - c. He made lots of money, lost it all, and couldn't regain it.
 - d. He recovered from big losses at first but later could not.
3. Josh says that he kept gambling because...
 - a. he wanted enough money to buy a house.
 - b. He enjoyed the excitement of winning money.
 - c. he didn't want to confess that he'd lost money.
 - d. He enjoyed the feeling he got when he lost money.
4. For Josh, cryptocurrency trading became a problem when...
 - a. he stopped working and spending time with other people.
 - b. He started to sell drugs in order to fund his trading habit.
 - c. he returned to a different, former addiction.
 - d. He started telling lies and taking things from family members.
5. Josh says that when people trade cryptocurrencies together in groups, ...
 - a. they tend not to consider their decisions thoroughly.
 - b. they learn and share more information and make better choices.



- c. they are given special tips by the trading companies.
- d. they become more socially accepted by their peers.

b. Find examples of prepositions followed by -ing and verbs followed by infinitives and or gerunds

c. Match the sentence's halves

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|---|---|
| 1. I'm trying to work! | a. I prefer sending text messages |
| 2. Can you edit the presentation, please? | b. I'm good at taking pictures. I'd rather do that. |
| 3. Could you give me a call? | c. Please stop talking. |

d. Write the correct preposition to complete the sentence.

Choose from the following prepositions: for, from, in, of, on, to, and with.

1. I find it hard to concentrate ____ anything when my phone is on.
2. She apologized ____ hurting her feelings.
3. I never agree ____ my manager on politics.
4. He suffers ____ terrible headaches in hot weather.
5. They are applying ____ internships this summer to get some work experience.
6. My mother disapproved ____ my career choices.
7. Do you believe ____ ghosts?
8. Karen, let me introduce you ____ Professor Roberts.