

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Reading

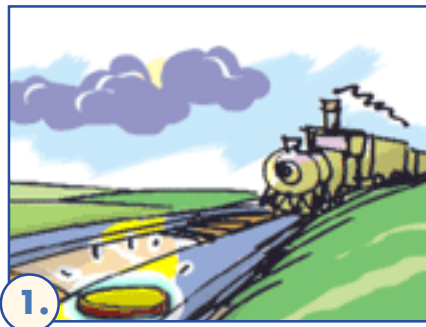
Read the paragraph below and answer the questions.

The Euro is the common currency introduced in January 2002 for 11 member countries. The countries who use the Euro currency are Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain and Portugal. Four European Community (EU) countries are not using the Euro as their common currency. Denmark, the United Kingdom and Sweden decided to keep their own money and Greece wanted to join but didn't qualify.

1. When was the Euro introduced?
2. How many countries use it?
3. Which countries are not using the Euro?

currency - money used in a country

B: Pictures



Match the words below with the things in the the pictures.

tram iron red wine washing machine microwave Euro note Euro coin



C: Discussion

Work in small groups.

A German newspaper gave the Euro **stress tests** - tests to make sure the Euros will not be damaged when people use them. Look at the pictures of the things in **Pre-Reading Activity B**. How could you use these things to test the new Euro coins and notes? e.g. You could use an iron on a Euro note to find out if the note still keeps its pictures.

Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary

Match the words and phrases below with their correct meanings.

pockmarked spin dry to expand value (n) close to to shrink to destroy

1. the same meaning as *almost, not quite*
2. something is turned round quickly in a washing machine to get the water out of it
3. what something is worth
4. something is damaged with marks
5. to grow smaller
6. to break something so it can't be used
7. to grow bigger

B: Question

Read today's article and look again at the pictures in **Pre Reading Activity B**.

Which things can damage the new Euro notes and coins?

Euros - Wash Them, Don't Iron Them

BERLIN Wednesday January 2 (Reuters) - Euro notes can be washed at close to boiling but should not be ironed, a German daily newspaper said Tuesday after its reporters put the new money through some everyday stress tests. The Bild newspaper found the notes looking as good as new, only wetter, after a half-hour wash at 95 degrees Celsius and a quick spin dry.

But when the notes were ironed, their shiny **security strip**,

which shows their value, quickly became pockmarked. The notes' **security thread** also burned when put through a microwave, Bild reported.

The notes changed color and shrank briefly when dipped in red wine, but expanded again as they soaked up the wine.

The coins were completely destroyed when run over by a tram.

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security thread - a thread that is put through a note to stop people making notes illegally

security strip - a strip which is used in a note to stop people making notes illegally

C: Reading for Details

Read the words from today's article and choose the best answers. (Use your dictionary if necessary.)

1. ... *the notes looking as good as new...*
As **good as new** means:
a. the notes look new.
b. the notes are new.
2. *The notes changed color...*
The **notes changed color** means:
a. the notes became a different color.
b. the notes stayed the same color.
3. ...*and shrank briefly when dipped in red wine...*
Briefly means:
a. for a short time.
b. for a long time.
4. ...*but expanded again as they soaked up the wine.*
Soaked up means:
a. the wine washed the notes.
b. the notes took in the wine.
5. *The coins were completely destroyed...*
Completely destroyed means:
a. The coins can still be used.
b. The coins can't be used.

D: Questions

1. Who put the new Euro money through some everyday tests?
2. What happened when the money was washed and spin dried?
3. What happened when the money was ironed?
4. What happened when the money was put in a microwave?
5. What happened when the money was dipped in red wine?
6. What happened when the money was run over by a tram?

E: Discussion

Work in pairs or in small groups and discuss the questions.

1. Can you think of any other everyday **stress tests**?
2. Do you think the notes and coins of your country would survive the stress tests?

Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Language

In today's article there are these words:

*Euro notes can be washed at close to boiling but **should not** be ironed.*

Should not means it isn't a good thing to do.

Should means it is a good thing or right thing to do.

Look at the sentences below and use **should / shouldn't** and one of the phrases to make sentences. The first one has been done for you.

Phrases

eat it all the time

be more helpful

go to bed earlier

look for another job

go and see a doctor

ask the teacher to help you

Example

1. A: I feel really sick.
B: *You should go and see a doctor.*
2. A: I'm so tired. I went to bed at 2 am.
B: *You...*
3. A: I love eating pizza but it makes me fat.
B: *You...*
4. A: I hate my job.
B: *You...*
5. A: Mom was angry with me again! She says I'm lazy.
B: *You...*
6. A: I don't understand this!
B: *You...*

B: Giving Advice

Work in pairs and read aloud the sentences from **Post-Reading Activity A**. Think about your pronunciation and try to speak clearly.

C: Discussion

1. What do you call the money you use in your country? (e.g. Japan - yen)
2. What pictures are on the notes and coins?
3. Why are those pictures on the notes and coins?
4. Do you think it is a good idea to have a common currency? Why or why not?



TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Reading - Notes

This is just a basic introduction to the Euro which is designed for students who have little or any idea of the topic.

A: Reading - Answers

1. January 2002
2. 11 countries use it.
3. Denmark, United Kingdom, Sweden and Greece

B: Pictures - Notes

This is a vocabulary activity. Ask the students to do the activity first and then check their answers in their dictionaries.

B: Pictures - Answers

- tram - Picture 1
- iron - Picture 2
- red wine - Picture 4
- washing machine - Picture 3
- microwave - Picture 5.

Euro note - Pictures 2, 3, 4, 5; Euro coin - Picture 1

C: Discussion - Notes

Make sure students understand what they are being asked to discuss before they begin. You may like to hold up a note of your currency. Ask students how it could be tested to find out whether it would last when being used in every day life. Students are doing this activity to predict the content of today's article. Once they understand what they have to do, let them discuss and don't give any answers. Allow plenty of time for discussion. You may wish to put the following structure on the white board:
You could use (a) to...

You may want to elicit some ideas from a few groups towards the end of the activity.

Reading Activities

A: Vocabulary - Answers

1. close to
2. a spin dry
3. value
4. pockmarked
5. to shrink
6. to destroy
7. to expand

B: Question - Notes

Don't let students spend too long on this. Give them some time and then go through the answers quickly.

B: Question - Answers

- The Euro notes can't be ironed.
- The Euro notes can be washed in a washing machine.
- The Euro notes can't be put in a microwave.
- The Euro notes can be put into a jug of red wine.
- The Euro coins can't be run over by a tram.

C: Reading for Details - Answers

1.a, 2.a, 3.a, 4.b, 5.b.

D: Questions - Answers

1. Reporters from a German newspaper.
2. The notes looked as good as new, only wetter.
3. The shiny security strip quickly became pockmarked.
4. The security thread burned.
5. The notes changed color and shrank briefly and then expanded as they soaked up the wine.
6. The coins were completely destroyed.

Post Reading Activities

A: Language - Answers

2. You should go to bed earlier.
3. You shouldn't eat it all the time.
4. You should look for another job.
5. You should be more helpful.
6. You should ask the teacher to help you.

B: Giving Advice - Notes

Model the sentences for the students. Either take both parts or tape them before class with another native speaker and then play them back to students.

B: Discussion - Notes

Students from different countries will enjoy discussing questions 1 - 3. If they are from the same country, it would be better to go straight to question 4.