



W S C WIĘCEJ NIŻ OCZEKujesz

Warsaw Study Centre

## say it with Mr Złoty

### HAVE FUN

There are literally thousands of expressions and proverbs about money. There's a selection below. What is the missing word? Why don't you discuss these sayings with your friends and colleagues? It might be an opportunity to practise your English.

1. Money makes the world go .....
2. A banker is a man who ..... you an umbrella when the weather is fair, and takes it away from you when it rains.
3. Not having to worry about money is almost like not having to worry about .....
4. Society can transport money from rich to poor only in a ..... bucket.
5. Money brings some happiness but after a certain point it just brings more .....
6. All that glitters is not .....

KEY: round, lends, dying, leaky, money, gold

### READ AND LEARN

This month we deal with...

**Use a highlighter to mark the words or facts you would like to remember and perhaps share with your colleagues or family.**

For thousands of years, gold was the ultimate money. It could buy anything, including hearts. It was wealth and power to be sure, but it was also enchantment, with a special lustre and reassuring weight and feel. The lure of gold drove ships across stormy seas and explorers across rugged mountains to places as remote as Canada's Klondike region, near the Arctic Circle or Asia's Xanadu so vividly portrayed by British poet Coleridge.

But what is it that makes gold so precious? Let us consider just three areas which provide enough argument to defend this commodity's value.

### PROPERTIES OF GOLD

Pure gold is the most malleable and ductile of all the metals. It can easily be beaten or hammered to a thickness of 0.000013 cm. Just 29 g could be drawn into a wire 100 km long. It is one of the softest metals and is a good conductor of heat and electricity. Gold is bright yellow and has a high lustre. Gold is extremely inactive. It is unaffected by air, heat, moisture, and most solvents.

### OCCURRENCE

Gold is found in nature in quartz veins and secondary alluvial deposits as a free metal or in a combined state. It is widely distributed although it is rare, being 75th in order of abundance of the elements in the crust of the earth. It is almost always associated with varying amounts of silver; the naturally occurring gold-silver alloy is called electrum. Gold also occurs in sea water. Although the quantity of gold present in sea water is more than 9 billion metric tons, the cost of recovering the gold would be far greater than the value of the gold that could thus be recovered. As far as gold jewellery is concerned the first known occurrence of such jewellery dates from the Sumer civilisation in between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in southern Iraq around 3000 BC. A major archaeological find of early jewellery was in the Royal tombs of Ur, in Mesopotamia, dated to around 2,600 BC.

### USES OF GOLD

Gold's great virtues of malleability, ductility, reflectivity, resistance to corrosion and unparalleled ability as a thermal and electrical conductor mean it is used in a wide variety of industrial applications consuming close to 300 tonnes annually.

The prime use is in electronics. Our age of high technology finds it indispensable in everything from pocket calculators to computers, washing machines to television and missiles to spacecraft. The rocket engines of American space shuttles are lined with gold-brazing alloys to reflect heat, and the lunar modules of the Apollo programme that put men on the moon were shrouded with gold foil acting as a radiation shield. More commonly, the humble touch telephone in your home typically contains 33 gold-plated contacts.

Visually, the most spectacular use of decorative gold is gold leaf which has been used for centuries to adorn the domes or ceilings of public buildings, because its resistance to corrosion means it will outlast paint by many years. Gold's ability to reflect heat in summer and help retain it in winter has also led to the use of glass coated with a thin film of gold in several modern buildings; one ounce of gold covers typically one thousand square feet of glass. This reflective glass can cut cooling and heating costs by 40%. All told, the industrial uses of gold provide a very steady element in gold demand, requiring more than the equivalent of all Australian gold production annually.

### AMAZING FACTS

It may be hard to believe but the following facts are all true.

- The World Cup Trophy is 32cm high and is made of solid 18-carat gold.
- There is a bank in Oman which has golden doors.
- One of the world's rarest and most sought after collector coins, the 1933 Double Eagle, was sold at Sotheby's auction for the record sum of \$7.59 million.

### COLOUR UP YOUR ENGLISH

Impress everyone with your knowledge of idioms and colloquial expressions for everyday English.

This time we look at expressions related to gold. Study the examples and think of a Polish expression that would best translate the idioms.

to be pure gold .....

I hear our HR Director has been poached by our competitor. ~Really, that would be a tremendous loss for the company as everybody considers her **to be pure gold**.

strike gold .....

Pete's reputation precedes him. He always seems **to strike gold** with his investment decisions. He hasn't lost a dime yet.

golden handcuffs .....

Unless we offer them some sort of **golden handcuffs** they will definitely leave the company, and you know we cannot afford to lose such experienced people.

to be like gold dust .....

We need a specialist in Eastern Europe stock exchange who can speak fluent English and French. He or she should also be familiar with European Union regulations regarding stock exchange. ~Well, it's going to be difficult to find such a person, such people are like **gold dust**.

fool's gold .....

Investing in Wangoo may be chasing **fool's gold**, Harry. Are you sure you've considered all the information? This company hasn't really had a very impressive track record.

### MORE FUN WITH MR ZŁOTY

Mr Złoty's daughter, Penny, was being questioned by the teacher during an arithmetic lesson. 'If you had ten dollars,' said the teacher, 'and I asked you for a loan of eight dollars, how much would you have left?'

'Ten,' said Penny firmly.

'Ten?' the teacher said 'How do you make it ten?'

'Well,' replied Penny softly 'You may ask for a loan of eight dollars, but that doesn't mean you'll get it!'

### COMMUNICATION SKILL PILL

The text about gold included many numbers and figures. These were provided as facts, but very often when we present factual information we approximate it somehow or use vague expressions such as these presented below.

ex. The flight takes two hours and forty five minutes

The flight takes approximately three hours.

1. If I'm not mistaken Wangoo's shares were at about/around 20 pln a share.
2. The construction of our new headquarters will cost \$ 2 mil, give or take a few thousand.
3. Can you tell me how much it will cost, more or less? I need to know how much money to withdraw from an ATM.
4. We're expecting twenty or so people to come.
5. Photograph albums, it turned out, could also cost £110, or thereabouts.
6. Profits have fallen by roughly 5%.
7. She earns somewhere in the region of \$35,000 a year.
8. A firm price hasn't been set yet, but the ballpark figure under discussion is \$3 million.
9. "How old do you think he is?" "Oh, I don't know. Forty five odd."
10. At a guess, I'd say around 3000 people took part in the demonstration.

Now think how you would present the following figures using the structures above:

- your age
- the cost of your last holidays
- the time you need to finish what you are doing at the moment
- your salary

### TEST YOURSELF – HOW MUCH HAVE YOU LEARNT

What is the missing word? All the words were in this month's lesson.

1. During a successful business career, she accumulated a great amount of .....
2. The country's most valuable ..... include tin and diamonds.
3. What is a naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver called? .....
4. The sea ..... the sun's warmth longer than the land.
5. Some investors have ..... gold investing in airlines. It proved to be a very good decision.
6. Skilled workers are like gold ..... in the engineering industry. They are very hard to find.
7. We'll have to go away and cost this carefully, but as a ..... figure I'd say that it'll be about two million dollars.
8. Can you give me an ..... idea of the numbers involved? We'll work out the exact figures later on.
9. She was paid the ..... sum of ten million pounds for that film.
10. Legal advice should be ..... before you take any further action.

KEY: wealth commodities electron retains struck dust ballpark approximate mind-boggling sought



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