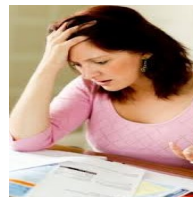




At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

* share opinion on when can life considered tough, and answer some relevant questions.



Read the Article

I survive on food from **food banks**, and by selling things I own. I often go without meals, but always ensure Taiu eats. I'm told that families like mine normally spend £35 a week on food. I have that for a month to buy things in Iceland. We eat a lot of soup and crackers. Taiu loves that. I prefer fresh vegetables, but the price of them is so high. At Christmas my dad sent me a little **hamper** from America and also someone from church sent me a shop round from Tesco. I think they found out by accident that I was really struggling because I try and keep quite private about that – I think that's pride.

I'm struggling at the moment and it's like, "Right, what can I pay today?" And that's it; it's the bill and everyone's had their gas and electric bills go up. When mine went up they said to me, "Sorry, we haven't been charging you enough for the last year, so you now owe us". I mean, they just sent me a bill for £423 because I was paying my gas and electric bills at £38 a month and they turned around and said "We should have been charging you over £70 a month". Their mistake, but now they're expecting it all.

There's no public transport in this town between eight and nine in the morning, on Sundays, and after six o'clock. My work as a **care co-ordinator** started at nine. I was working in town but there were no buses.



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Taiu misses out on activities and going out and doing things, other than just going to the park. One of my friends said, "Let's go on holiday – let's do the 10 pound holiday". I can't afford that. It's 10 pound each, plus you've then got to pay your electric, then you've got to buy your food when you're there, then you've got to pay for your transport, then you've got to pay for your **excursions**. It's too much.

Let's Talk



1. What problems do the people with low income in your country experience?
2. Is your government doing anything to solve these problems?
3. Do you think the author's life is tough? Support your answer.
4. Have you ever donated to the food bank?
5. Would there always be poverty in the world? Explain your answer.
6. Do you believe that poverty causes crime?
7. If there's something you could do to help the needy, what would you do?