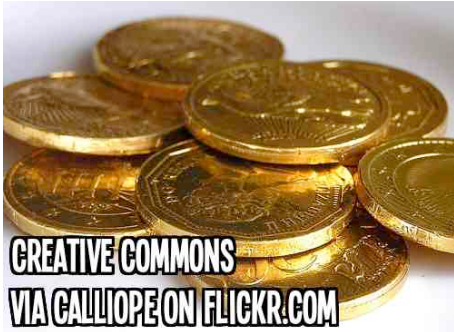# Couple finds $10 million of coins in garden

**28th February, 2014**

A couple in California got a huge surprise last year while they were walking in their garden. They found over 1,000 gold coins under a tree. The coins are worth over $10 million. They counted 1,427 coins. They were all in mint condition. The coins are from the period 1847 to 1894. Some of them are very rare and could be worth up to $1 million each. The couple said they were walking their dog and they saw some rusty cans sticking out of the ground under an old oak tree. When they dug down, they were shocked at what they found. The woman said: "It was like finding a wonderful hot potato. I never would have thought we would have found something like this."

The couple said they plan to keep some of the coins and sell the others online. They will donate some of the money they receive to charity. They said they would use some of the money to make their house better. The woman had some advice. She said: "Whatever answers you seek, they might be right at home. The answer to our difficulties was right there under our feet for years." She added that people should never be afraid to bend down and look inside a rusty can. Coin expert David Hall made sure the coins were genuine. He was very excited and said: "I don't like to say once-in-a-lifetime for anything, but you don't get an opportunity to handle this kind of material, a treasure like this. Ever."

Sources: *Sky News / L.A. Times / CNN*

# Writing

*Gold is the greatest treasure.* Discuss.

# Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

> couple / huge surprise / walking / garden / mint condition / $1 million / hot potato / online / donate / charity / advice / difficulties / rusty / genuine / once-in-a-lifetime

# True / False

a) The couple found the gold while they were planting vegetables.   T / F

b) There were 1,427 gold coins under a tree.  T / F

c) The coins are over 500 years old.  T / F

d) The woman said it was like finding a wonderful hot potato.  T / F

e) The couple will sell all of the coins online.  T / F

f) They will sell their house and buy a new one in Hawaii.

g) The woman warned people not to look in rusty cans.  T / F

h) A coin expert said the coins weren't real treasure.  T / F

# Synonym Match

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | huge | a. | uncommon |
| 2 | worth | b. | give |
| 3. | in mint condition | c. | frightened |
| 4. | rare | d. | valued at |
| 5. | wonderful | e. | suggestions |
| 6. | keep | f. | lovely |
| 7. | donate | g. | big |
| 8. | advice | h. | chance |
| 9. | afraid | i. | brand new |
| 10. | opportunity | j. | hold on to |

# Discussion – Student A

a) What would you do if you found $10 million in your garden?

b) What's the biggest thing you've ever found?

c) What's the biggest money surprise you've ever had?

d) Why do people like gold so much? Do you like gold?

e) Would you like to go on a treasure hunt?

f) Will you now start looking in rusty cans under trees?

g) How lucky is the couple in this article?

h) Why did the woman say it was like "finding a wonderful hot potato"?

## Phrase Match

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | A couple in California got | a. | out of the ground |
| 2 | They were all in mint | b. | online |
| 3. | they saw some rusty cans sticking | c. | condition |
| 4. | they were shocked | d. | lifetime |
| 5. | It was like finding a wonderful | e. | a huge surprise |
| 6. | sell the others | f. | was right there |
| 7. | They will donate some of the money they | g. | hot potato |
| 8. | The answer to our difficulties | h. | a rusty can |
| 9. | look inside | i. | at what they found |
| 10. | once-in-a- | j. | receive to charity |

## Discussion – Student B

a) How much money should people give to charity if they find money?

b) Do you find things more or lose things more?

c) What is your advice if people ask for answers to their difficulties?

d) How would your lifestyle change if you found $10 million?

e) Are you a lucky person?

f) Would you rather be lucky in love or lucky with money?

g) What is your biggest treasure?

h) What questions would you like to ask the couple?

## Spelling

1. A couple in California got a huge <u>uirsesrp</u>

2. The coins are <u>trwoh</u> over $10 million

3. They were all in mint <u>cinnotodi</u>

4. The coins are from the <u>poried</u> 1847 to 1894

5. they saw some <u>usyrt</u> cans

6. It was like finding a <u>efldrnuow</u> hot potato

7. They will <u>adteon</u> some of the money

8. The woman had some <u>viedac</u>

9. The answer to our <u>itucfsiildfe</u>

10. people should never be <u>aidfra</u>

11. made sure the coins were <u>iegennu</u>

12. you don't get an <u>yptnoituorp</u>

## Role Play

**Role A – Money**
You think money is the best thing to find. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): love, the perfect job or the meaning of life.

**Role B – Love**
You think love is the best thing to find. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): money, the perfect job or the meaning of life.

**Role C – The perfect job**
You think the perfect job is the best thing to find. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): love, money or the meaning of life.

**Role D – The meaning of life**
You think the meaning of life is the best thing to find. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): love, the perfect job or money.

## Speaking - Find

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to find at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- lots of money
- love
- the meaning of life
- your perfect job
- something you lost as a child
- a treasure map to $1 billion
- yourself
- an important password

**Answers – Synonym Match**

| 1. g | 2. d | 3. i | 4. a | 5. f |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. j | 7. b | 8. e | 9. c | 10. h |

**Answers – True False**

| a | F | b | T | c | F | d | T | e | F | f | F | g | T | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.