



## READING ACTIVITY N° 1

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Level: Upper-intermediate

**Competencia:** Lee diversos tipos de textos en inglés como lengua extranjera.

**Capacidad:** Obtiene información del texto escrito.

**Desempeño Precisado:** Identifica información explícita, y complementaria integrando datos para resolver diversos ejercicios de comprensión lectora.



**In today's society, we have to have money. Or do we? A few brave individuals have tried living without money for a time and the results have been quite surprising. Carolien Hoogland is one of these people.**

### 1 WHY GIVE UP MONEY?

On New Year's Eve 2009, Carolien wrapped her purse in a newspaper and didn't open it again for a year. The 30-something academic researcher from Rotterdam was starting an experiment to see if it was possible to live outside the conventional economic system. She wanted to try living in a more stimulating and fulfilling way. She also believed that we should try to preserve the environment for future generations through sustainable living.

## COULD YOU LIVE WITHOUT MONEY?

### 2 CREATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Carolien made careful plans before starting her experiment. She contacted an energy company and they agreed to supply her gas and electricity for a year in return for research on their green products. She managed to cover her food needs by making bartering agreements with a restaurant, a farm and a shop. In exchange, she worked on various projects, such as creating an education programme about food.

### 3 THE REACTIONS

Initially, the shop was reluctant to get involved because they said they couldn't afford to. She had to persuade them that they didn't need to pay her but could give her what food they could spare. Meanwhile, the dance studio where Carolien took tango classes allowed her to continue her classes and in return she distributed publicity for them. And instead of going to restaurants, Carolien cooked a meal every week and invited her friends. They would bring drinks or a dessert, and Carolien's home became a meeting place for social gatherings.

### 4 THE TEST

People have asked Carolien if she ever felt like giving up. She admits that on one occasion she did when she was invited to visit friends in Berlin where she didn't have her usual barter system in place. Although they said she didn't have to pay for anything, she felt dependent on her friends. One afternoon, she went to an ATM and withdrew some money so that she could buy them an ice cream. It was the only time she spent money though, and when she returned to Rotterdam, she carried on as before.

### 5 LOOKING BACK

Carolien's project ended at the beginning of 2011 and she reluctantly started using money again. During the 12 months, she found that her quality of life had actually improved. 'Life became so much simpler in a nice way, it was as if the buzz of a thousand different choices a day disappeared,' she says. She found that she didn't need to buy things to be happy. Instead, she needed people, and as a result her relationships with the people around her became deeper. Carolien continues to live in a sustainable way; she cycles everywhere and doesn't fly, she buys second-hand furniture and wears clothes given to her by friends.

### I. Complete the sentences with these words.

environment - evaluate - job

A person might live without money...

1. Because they don't have a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In order to protect the \_\_\_\_\_ for future generations.
3. To \_\_\_\_\_ the importance of money.

**II. Read the article and circle the correct alternative.**

1. Carolien lived without money because she **had to** / **wanted to**.
2. She **managed** / **didn't manage** to live without it for a year.
3. The experiment was a **positive** / **negative** experience overall.

**III. Answer the questions.**

1. What motivated Carolien to do her experiment?

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2. How did she pay her energy bills?

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3. What did she do for food?

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4. How did people respond to the experiment?

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5. What was a positive outcome of the experiment?

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**IV. Match the underlined words in the article with these definitions.**

1. Using methods that aren't bad for the environment
2. Have extra that you don't need
3. Noise, usually made by an insect
4. Continued
5. Satisfying, making a person feel good

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