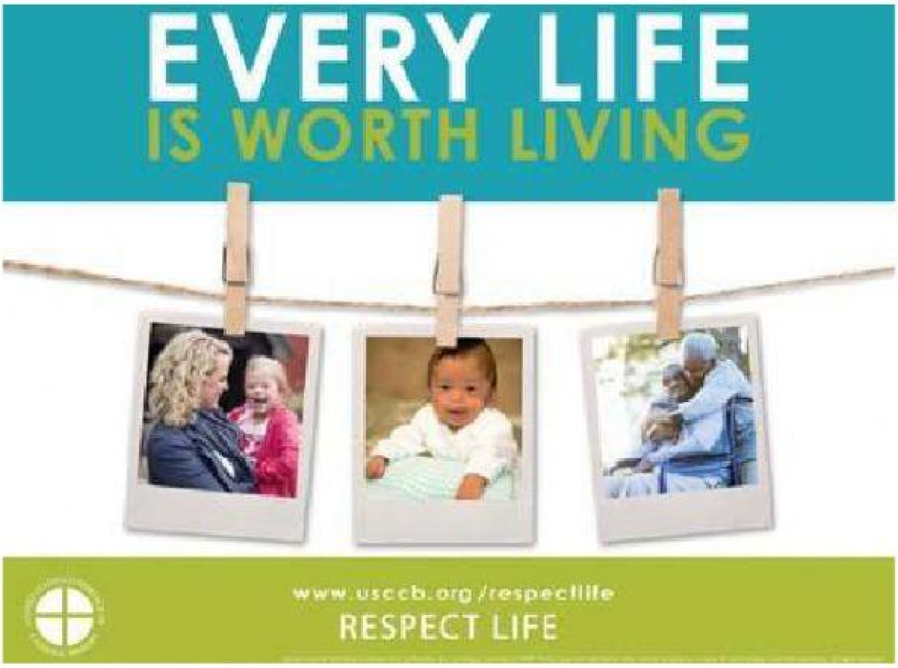
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RESPECT LIFE

B Work in pairs. Decide if each item 1–8 shows that:

a the economy is doing well.
b the economy is doing badly.

1 **Inflation** is quite low. Prices don't change much.
2 There's a lot of **unemployment**. Around 15% of the working population don't have a job.
3 Our **currency** is very **strong**, so it's cheap for us to travel abroad.
4 The **cost of living** is very **high**. A lot of people can't afford basic things.
5 Unemployment has **gone up** a lot over the past year.
6 Our currency is really **weak** at the moment. It's very expensive to import things from abroad.
7 The **average salary** is quite high. I think it's about $35,000 a year.

C Work in groups. Discuss the following questions.

1 How do the following things affect your quality of life? For example: *I think if you have a close, strong family, you have a good quality of life.*

job security	time off	pace of life	crime
cost of living	climate	transport	family

2 Are there any other factors that you think are important for a good quality of life?
3 Which things do you think are most important? Why?

A Use the verbs in brackets with the present continuous, the present perfect, *be going to* or *used to*. Pay attention to the time phrases.

1 At the moment, the economy .... quite well. (do)
2 Unemployment .... over the last few months. (fall)
3 The cost of living .... a lot in the last five years. (go up)
4 Eating out .... a lot cheaper when I was a kid. (be)
5 There .... an election in four months' time. (be)
6 The government .... currently .... popularity. (lose)
7 According to the government, inflation .... over the next few months. (fall)
8 Crime .... less of a problem when I was younger. (be)
9 Our currency .... stronger at the moment. (get)
10 We .... more job security in the past. (have)

READING

You are going to read a short story about a woman going to the reading of her father's will. A will is a legal document where a person writes down what should be done with their possessions after they die.

A Before you read, discuss these questions in groups.

- Why is it important to have a will?
- When do you think is a good time to write one?
- Do you have anything special you'd leave to someone?
- What surprises can happen when a will is read?
- Have you heard of any stories in the news about wills?

B Now read the story and find out why the author was surprised.

C Work in pairs. Discuss the following:

1. Explain the different sayings the author's family had.
2. What things do you think the daughters liked when they were young, and what didn't they like? Why?
3. How do you think the parents became rich?
4. Why do you think they didn't tell their daughters?
5. How do you think the daughters felt about it when they found out?

WILL POWER

None of us had any idea what was going to happen when we arrived at the lawyer's office. Dad had died two months earlier in his bed in the same two-bedroom house where we'd grown up. Apart from the house, we didn't expect Dad to leave anything of value. I mean, for years after my mum died, he'd gone to a neighbour's house to watch TV. I offered to buy him a TV once, but he just said, 'Never buy what you can borrow!' That was typical of him. I guess he liked his neighbour's company as well.

My mum had never worked and Dad was an insurance salesman. We assumed he wasn't successful because we were never bought toys and we wore second-hand clothes. We just thought he couldn't afford these things. Dad used to find bits of wood and turn them into toy boats and dolls. Mum taught us to make and repair clothes, which we used to do together at night. They had funny little sayings that they'd repeat whenever we complained about things: 'Money's silver, but a needle and thread is gold!' 'Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise'; 'Never buy what you can borrow, never throw away what you can repair.' We used to laugh at them, and sometimes invented are own silly sayings: 'A fool spends what the wise man saves'; 'A glass of water is worth all the tea in China.' We laughed, but having so little money was often annoying. I think we were the only family in our school without a TV; we never drank soft drinks, and sharing a room with two big sisters for sixteen years was difficult.

So we walked into the lawyer's office and sat down. We were serious, but not sad any more. Dad had had a good life. The lawyer started reading; I was hardly paying attention, really, but then the numbers seemed to continue without end. 'Wait, I'm sorry,' I said. 'How much did you say he had?' The lawyer smiled, 'Yes, I imagine it does need repeating. Two million, seven hundred and eighty-one thousand, six hundred and fifty three pounds and eighteen pence.'

We didn't know what to say! Nearly three million pounds! How? Why? We had so many questions, so many feelings.