READING

Does a lot of money REALLY make you happy?

Mark Larsen won over nine million pounds on the lottery two years ago. At first, life was fantastic and Mark had some fun – he spent a lot of money on a big new house and five new cars. Then problems started. Some friends began to ask him for money. He had a lot of arguments with his wife and they divorced. Now he says, "I haven´t got any friends and I feel lonely. Life was better when I didn´t have much money."

Many people think that money brings happiness. However, according to Professor Michael Argyle, this is not true. In Britain, we are richer but unhappier than fifty years ago. The USA is the richest country in the world but Americans are not the happiest people.

Professor Argyle has found that very poor people and very rich people are unhappier than those in between. For example, very poor people in the developing world live in overcrowded houses without water and with no electricity. However, there are also many millionaires with personal problems. A lot of young people who get rich very quickly are at risk. Because of this, some young millionaires are changing their lifestyles. Richard Cross, a multi-millionaire computer analyst from California, is an example. His house is not so big, there is a small garden and there are only two cars parked outside his house. "I want my kids to live a normal life," says Richard.

So what can make us happy? According to Professor Argyle, you should have one good relationship and some close friends. You should do a little sport and have a lot of contact with other people. Other people make you happy, not MONEY!

B.1 Read the article. Are the sentences TRUE or FALSE?

1. Mark Larsen was happier when he was poorer.
2. British people are happier than in the past.
3. Millionaires and very poor people are often unhappy.
4. Richard Cross has not got much money.
5. It´s a good thing to have friends.
6. A lot of money makes you very happy.

ANSWER

7. What problems did money bring to Mark? Arguments with his _____ and _____ asking for _____

8. Who are the happiest people? The ones in between, not too _____ and not too _____.