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Verb confusion 3 – money and problems

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a. We are buying more and more money on cars each year.
b. We are spending more and more money on cars each year.
- 2 a. We need to stop this problem as soon as possible.
b. We need to solve this problem as soon as possible.

Money: *buy* or *spend*?

We use *buy* to say what we bought or where we bought it: *I bought a new jumper last week.* 'Where did you **buy** it?' (= which shop did you buy it from)

We use *spend* to talk about money: *I spent over \$250 on mobile phone calls last month.*

When we use *spend* by itself, the idea of money is understood in the sentence:

We are spending more on petrol than ever before. (= we are spending more money on petrol)

We are buying more petrol than ever before. (= the focus is on the petrol)

Problems: *avoid*, *fix*, *prevent*, *repair*, *resolve*, *solve*

We *fix* or *repair* something that is broken: *I took my watch to the jewellers to get it fixed.*

We *solve* problems: *We must try to solve the unemployment problem.*

We *resolve* difficult situations and issues: *What can we do to resolve this situation?*

We *prevent* problems so they do not happen (*prevent from + -ing*; *prevent + noun /-ing*):

We need to do all we can to prevent this from happening. (= to stop this happening)

2 Correct the mistake below.

It took me two hours



3 Fill in the blanks with a suitable verb from this unit.

- 1 It is important to teach children how to save money as well as how to it.
- 2 We must take the necessary action to this issue as quickly as possible.
- 3 If we are to use nuclear power, we have to do everything we can to a disaster like Chernobyl.
- 4 Winning a great deal of money cannot all of your problems.
- 5 How much did you on video games last year?
- 6 We closed all the windows to the rain from coming in.
- 7 I have to save a lot of money because I want to a car next year.
- 8 I can do most things at home but I can't electrical goods if they don't work.