26 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS