

# Reading Comprehension

Read the text. Match the sentences with the correct person A–D. There is one person you need to use twice.

People and money: a peek into our financial lifestyles

## A Jim Gareth

Money, or shall we say the constant absence of it, drives us crazy. I suppose it all started when I was at university, and I'd borrowed quite a large sum by the time I graduated. When you are a fresh graduate, it's difficult to find a good job and I got into debt quite rapidly. I haven't been able to repay what I borrowed for some years now. My wife was in exactly the same situation when she graduated and she came into our relationship with her own debts. Then there were the expenses with the wedding, of course, and now we're totally broke!

## B Karen Jones

Our situation became critical last year, as we were in danger of getting evicted from our house because we weren't able to pay the mortgage. In the end we had to borrow a lot of money from my husband's family. It has taught us a valuable lesson though: don't get a larger house than you can afford, especially for a rip-off price, and certainly don't recklessly overspend on a lavish wedding if you're already in debt!

## C Henry Pollack

My wife says that I am really stingy with money, but I would call myself sensible. I don't think spending wisely is mean at all. You see, I have always been in charge of our family finances and I think my wife is grateful to me for taking that responsibility solely on myself. All my married life, I have been sitting down with a glass of sherry on a Sunday evening to work out a weekly budget from our total income, planning carefully what we could afford to buy and how much we would have to save up for the more costly items, such as a new TV or washing machine. Unlike our friends, we go on holiday every year, and I can assure you that our earnings are quite modest.

## D Evelyn Simmons

Our pensions are not much to boast about, but we are doing fine. We manage to pay our bills, we've paid off our mortgage and we still have some money left over for life's little luxuries. And if times got really hard, we have a few valuable items in our loft that could fetch quite a large sum at auction. We'll be fine, as long as we have each other.

- 1 \_\_\_ almost had their house repossessed due to financial difficulties.
- 2 \_\_\_ is a precise financial planner.
- 3 \_\_\_ is planning to sell some of their possessions if difficult financial times come along.
- 4 \_\_\_ shared the same financial problems as his/her partner.
- 5 \_\_\_ has bought a property that was overpriced.

