

DAY 40. VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Practice 1

Circle the correct words.

- 1 Helen, don't be such a **stingy** / miserly / spendthrift – you'll be broke by the end of the month.
- 2 If you keep up these **shady** / lavish / moneyed dealings, you'll have to answer to the police.
- 3 Everything he did seemed **well-to-do** / above board / penny-pinching, so it was a shock when the commissioner placed him under investigation.
- 4 The boss's son had a(n) **well-kept** / entitled / wanting air about him that no one liked.
- 5 I'm afraid I've got to ask for an advance on my pay cheque; I'm in a bit of a tight **angle** / corner / bend.
- 6 Being a supervisor and giving jobs to unqualified friends is a(n) **extravagant** / corrupt / thrifty way of employing people.
- 7 My parents provided well for my brother and me; we didn't have to **go** / be / have without even once.
- 8 I think people are taking a little money out of the till, so we're going to have to **smash** / crack / smack down on this before it gets out of control.

Practice 2

Complete the sentences with these words.

abuse bet bribery cuts opulent red soar tape

- 1 When the cost of fuel began to _____, Karla started taking the bus more often.
- 2 The president arranged for his nephew to be released without being charged – a clear _____ of his powers.
- 3 If we continue operating in the _____ for much longer, we'll have to close down.
- 4 The patient was charged with _____ for asking a hospital worker to give him special treatment in exchange for money.
- 5 Wow, this _____ chandelier must have set you back a fortune!
- 6 Putting your money in savings to accrue a little interest is often the safest _____ for an investment.
- 7 Due to _____ they've made to the budget, everybody must watch their business expenses more closely.
- 8 There's so much red _____ to wade through when applying for a government grant, but that's how bureaucracy works.

Practice 3

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

right?

Accruing wealth

Wealth tends to generate more wealth, but being born with a (1) _____ spoon in one's mouth is not the only way to the top. Some of the world's wealthiest people started out (2) _____ poor. People from very (3) _____ beginnings have not only risen to the top of their industries, but have also become some of the wealthiest people in the world.

The rich get richer and their net (4) _____ continues to grow. This seems unfair to many, but the personal stories of those who have gone from rags to (5) _____ have much to teach us about success. They remind us that through grit and the right (6) _____ of mind, it's possible to overcome even wretched circumstances.

Growing up on the (7) _____ side of the tracks is no blessing. However, it needn't be a (8) _____ either. In the cases of many it has provided the impetus needed to get ahead.

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|------------|------------|---------|-------------|
| 1 A golden | B silver | C large | D expensive |
| 2 A grimy | B filthy | C dirt | D earth |
| 3 A humble | B timid | C low | D shy |
| 4 A wealth | B money | C value | D worth |
| 5 A richer | B riches | C rich | D richly |
| 6 A peace | B presence | C frame | D cast |
| 7 A wrong | B other | C worst | D opposite |
| 8 A bother | B horror | C shame | D curse |

Practice 4

For questions 1 – 8, read the text below and decide which answer (a, b, c or d) best fits each gap.

A price on happiness?

The phrase 'Money doesn't buy happiness' is a cautionary cliché that keeps us from blindly lining our pockets with (1) _____ in the hope that we'll feel happier. But a recent study at Princeton University in New Jersey is challenging that idea; the study suggests that happiness could possibly be (2) _____ at an annual income of the equivalent of approximately \$75,000 US dollars. Can that be true?

Hearing this, we might be tempted to run to our employer and pressure them to (3) _____ out the cash more generously because our happiness depends on it. Of course, they're not likely to (4) _____ us with money just so that we smile more often in our cubicles. So before we start thinking a little extra dough is going to (5) _____ us for our sadness, it's important to note that the study makes a distinction between types of happiness – daily happiness and lifelong satisfaction.

For the former, no amount of money makes a difference, whether you're frequently (6) _____ or you're rolling in it. For the latter, though, the study showed that people making less than the magic number seem to express more frustration about the problems in their lives, for example, a health issue, whereas more (7) _____ folks aren't as affected by the same problem. Interestingly, though, those past the marker expressed no more satisfaction with life than those that just reached it. This suggests that a(n) (8) _____ to a multi-billion-dollar fortune wouldn't be any more satisfied than someone making a paltry \$75,000 a year. What a waste!

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|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 a stash | b hoard | c stock | d dosh |
| 2 a cherished | b prized | c treasured | d valued |
| 3 a crack | b dole | c tip | d toss |
| 4 a rinse | b wash | c shower | d bathe |
| 5 a reimburse | b balance | c offset | d compensate |
| 6 a skint | b thrifty | c posh | d shady |
| 7 a well-heeled | b big-hearted | c open-handed | d tight-fisted |
| 8 a proxy | b heir | c chancellor | d treasurer |

- Skim over the text for the main idea and then look closely at the gaps. Decide what part of speech goes in each gap by looking at the words surrounding the gap.
- Remember that the normal rules do not always apply to fixed phrases and idioms, so you will need to check your answer carefully and make sure it sounds right.