

Reading

Best wishes



A Scan the article about making wishes. Which three countries does it refer to?

MAKING WISHES

All over the world, people have always wished for things such as peace, love, good health, and money. Over hundreds of years, people in different countries have found different ways to make wishes. Here are some interesting examples.

The Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy, is a place where many people go to make a wish. The water from the fountain flows into a large pool of water below. To make a wish, visitors stand facing away from the fountain. Then, they use their right hand to throw a coin into the pool over their left shoulder. They believe this will bring them luck and bring them back to Rome one day. The coins in the fountain, several thousand euros each day, are given to poor people.



A very different way of making wishes happens in Anhui province in eastern China. Huangshan (which means "Yellow Mountain") is famous for its beautiful sunrises and sunsets. That's why people think it is a very romantic place. Couples go there to make a wish that they will stay together forever. Each couple buys a "love lock," or padlock, with a key. Next, they lock their padlock to a chain at the top of the mountain. Then they throw the key down the mountain so that their lock can never be opened.

In Turkey and some neighboring countries, May 5th is a special day for making wishes. People believe that each year on that day two wise men return to Earth. They come to help people and give them good health. In the evening, there are street food markets selling different kinds of seasonal food and musicians playing traditional music. People write their wishes on pieces of paper and then attach the paper to a tree. Nowadays, however, some people go online and send their wishes to special websites.



B Read the article. Check (✓) the statements that are true for each place.

	Rome	Huangshan	Turkey
1. People make wishes only once a year.	☐	☐	☐
2. You need a lock and key.	☐	☐	☐
3. You put your wish on a tree.	☐	☐	☐
4. You need a coin to make your wish.	☐	☐	☐
5. Wish-making is only for couples.	☐	☐	☐
6. The money from the wishes goes to poor people.	☐	☐	☐
7. Some people make their wishes on the Internet.	☐	☐	☐

12 READING

A Skim the article. Which of these sentences is true?

Boyle decided that a life without money was impossible to live.

Boyle wanted to give people the chance to live a different lifestyle.

THE MAN WITH NO MONEY

A Can you imagine your life without any money? Not even a cent, a real, or a peso? One man decided to try it out.

B Mark Boyle was a successful manager of an organic food company in Ireland. He had a good life. But he worried about the damage humans were doing to the environment. He also believed people bought more things than they needed. Boyle wished we grew our own food and made our own furniture, so we wouldn't waste as much as we do today. So one day, he left his job and started an experiment – could he live for a year without buying anything?

C He sold his houseboat and moved into an old mobile home. He got it for free from a website where people give away things they don't want. It wasn't as comfortable as his old place at first, but he soon made it feel like home. He parked it on a farm near Bristol, England. Instead of paying rent, he worked on the farm. He burned wood from the forest to heat his home, so he didn't pay electricity or gas bills.



D Boyle didn't go shopping, either. He grew his own fruit and vegetables. He also looked for food in the trash cans of supermarkets and cooked it on a wood stove. He made his own toothpaste from fish bones and seeds. To wash his clothes, he used a special type of nut to make soap. Boyle even built his own toilet and used old newspapers from the farm for toilet paper.

E He began using money again after eighteen months. He says his life change made him feel healthier, happier, and closer to nature. He wrote two books about his experience and used the money to start "The Free House," a farm in Ireland where people can live without money.

B Read the article. Then circle the correct word or words.

- Before the experiment, Mark Boyle was **good at** / **unhappy with** his job.
- Boyle thought that people **spent too much** / **discussed money too often**.
- Boyle worked on a farm **to earn money to pay rent** / **so he didn't have to pay rent**.
- Boyle made cleaning products from things he found in **trash cans** / **the forest**.
- Boyle generally felt **worse** / **better** after living without money.

C Match the sentences to the paragraphs they describe. Write the letter.

- ___ 1. Describes a big change that happened in the person's life
- ___ 2. Describes the way the person's everyday habits changed
- ___ 3. Asks a question to make the reader think about the topic
- ___ 4. Gives general information about the past of the main person in the story
- ___ 5. Explains how the person felt about the whole experiment

D **PAIR WORK** Discuss Boyle's experience. Would you like to try it?

Do you think people today spend too much money on things they don't need?