

THE VIOLIN

Read the text and answer the questions.

When musician Colin Baker won five hundred thousand pounds in a competition, it seemed the answer to his dreams. Almost immediately, he bought a house and made his own CD recording of some classical music. He intended to save the rest of his money and retire, even though he was only in his late forties.

Then he saw a violin in a shop. It was of such high quality that even top professional players are rarely able to afford one like it. "I'd never felt money was important until then," he explained. "Even with the money I'd won, I wasn't sure I could afford to buy the violin, so I started to leave the shop. Then I thought I'd just try it, and I fell in love with the beautiful sound it made. I knew it was perfect both for live concerts and for recordings."

Now all the money has gone. "My wife can't have the study room I promised her, and I can't retire," says Colin, "but it doesn't matter." His wife says, "I sometimes wish he was more responsible with money, but I'm still pleased for him. I've always helped him in his career, as he's helped me by sharing everything. We weren't unhappy with our jobs, so we didn't really need the money to escape, and although Colin considered retiring, I know he wouldn't be happy doing that - he loves music too much. I think he did the right thing."

1 What is the writer trying to do in this text?

- A advise musicians to enter competitions
- B explain why someone spent a lot of money
- C describe how someone got a CD recorded
- D persuade people to prepare for retirement.

2 What can a reader learn from the text?

- A how one man's dream ended unhappily
- B how much was paid for a special violin
- C how one couple support each other
- D how much money musicians need for their music.

3 What does Colin's wife say about what he did?

- A She wishes he had used the money differently.
- B She feels she didn't really benefit from the money.
- C She is sorry she has lost her study room.
- D She accepts the decision that he made.

4 When Colin first found the violin, he thought

- A he might not have enough money to buy it.
- B he should not spend all his money on it.
- C he was not a good enough player to own it.
- D he could not leave the shop without it.

5 What did a local newspaper say about Colin's story?

- A "A well-known record company has asked a local musician to record a CD after winning competition..."
- B "A local musician today announced he would spend every penny of the money he'd won in a competition..."
- C "A concert audience heard a local musician give a brilliant performance last night on the violin he'd won in a competition..."
- D "A local musician has decided to continue career in music in spite of winning some money in a competition..."

