

Teen Money Path | Week 1 of 12

Needs vs. Wants · Printable worksheet · Ages ~13-17

Week 1 Worksheet — Needs vs. Wants

Name: _____

Date: _____

Part A — Quick definitions (your words)

1. In one sentence, what is a need?

2. In one sentence, what is a want?

3. Why does the difference matter when money is limited?

Part B — Sort the list

Label each item N (need), W (want), or ? (not sure). There can be more than one “right” answer — write a short why for at least three.

Item	N / W / ?	Why?
Lunch for a school day		
Designer sneakers when you already have shoes that fit		
Phone charger		
Movie tickets with friends		
Winter coat		
Game pass / extra in-app content		
Soap / deodorant		
Newest phone when the old one still works		
Bus fare / gas money for a required activity		
Snack from a vending machine		

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Part C — Your week (real life)

List 8 purchases or wish-list items from the past week. Sort each one.

#	Item	Approx. \$ (optional)	N / W / ?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

Totals (optional): Needs _____ Wants _____ Not sure _____

Part D — One gray-zone conversation

Pick one “Not sure” item. Fill this out, then talk with a parent.

Item: _____

What problem (if any) does it solve?

Is there a cheaper option that still works? Yes / No / Maybe

If yes, what? _____

If I wait one week, will I still want it? Yes / No / Not sure

Our decision together: ☐ Buy now ☐ Wait ☐ Skip ☐ Other: _____

What I learned:

Part E — One-sentence takeaway

This week I will pause before I buy and ask: “Is this a need, a want, or am I not sure yet?”

Signature (teen): _____

Parent initial: _____

Parent tip: There’s no universal answer key. Use gray-zone items to talk about your family’s values and budget.