

Topic: Bills

Let's get started...

Did you get any bills in the mail this week? What kind of bills?

Background:

Paying bills is very important in America. Some important bills to pay are the water bill, the electricity bill, and the phone bill. If you don't pay bills, you cannot use these services. Bills usually come in the mail every month. You pay the company by cash or check and then you can continue to use the services.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

What kind of bills do you have?

- Rent
- Electricity
- Water
- Sewage
- Telephone
- Cell phone
- Internet
- Credit card

Share your partner's answers with the group.



Discussion Questions:

What kind of bills do you have in your native country?

How do you pay bills in your native country?

How often do you pay bills in America?

How many bills do you have in America?

How do you pay your bills? (For example, by mail, by Internet, automatic withdrawal)

Do you pay bills at the same time, or one by one?

What is your most expensive bill?

What is your cheapest bill?

Which bill changes the most from month to month?

What do you do if you have a problem with your bill?

Have you ever paid a bill late? What happened?

Have you been charged for something you didn't buy?

Have you ever been surprised by how expensive your bill is?

Do you pay your bills on the Internet?

Do you try to conserve energy to reduce your electricity bill?

Do you call long distance with a phone card or with your phone company?

Do you think any services should be free? (For example, water, electricity)

What do you buy with your credit card?

Do you think credit cards are a good idea? What are the pros and cons of using a credit card?

Which is your favorite form of payment: cash, credit card, or check?

How can you tell if a letter is a bill or junk mail?

How do you store bill information? Do you have a file of receipts and statements?

Do you have a budget? How do you keep track of your budget?

What would you buy if you didn't have to pay bills?

New words and Idioms:

debt, interest rate, minimum payment, statement, receipt, budget, junk mail, long distance, "making ends meet," "bring home the bacon,"