

**Topic: Banking**

**Let's get started...**

When is the last time you went to the bank? What did you do at the bank?

**Background:**

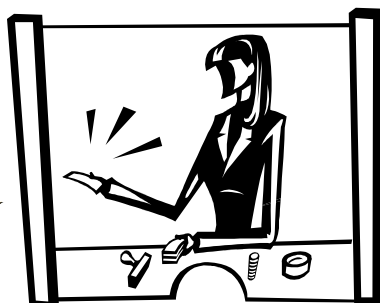
Most Americans use banks to save money and to keep money safe. People usually put their money in a bank, and then withdraw money when they need it. People often have a savings account and a checking account. ATM machines are a fast and convenient way to withdraw money from your account.



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

Compare banks in America and banks in your native country. Talk about...

- ...banking fees
- ...bank hours
- ...bank tellers
- ...interest rates
- ...withdrawing money
- ...depositing money



**Share your partner's answers with the group.**

**Discussion Questions:**

What are some services that banks offer?

How do you get a banking account?

What bank do you use? How did you decide which bank to use?

Should you trust all banks? How do you know if you should trust a bank?

How many accounts do you have?

Do you have a co-signer on your account?

How often do you go to the bank?

Do you use an ATM machine? How do you get cash?

In your native country, how do people usually pay for items? Do people write checks or use credit cards?

Do you use banks in your native country? If not, how do you keep your money safe?

Do you trust banks in America? Why or why not?

Do you use direct deposit?

Do you use Internet banking services? Which is more convenient: going to the bank or using the Internet?

What do you do with your bank statements?

What should you do if you lose your ATM card?

Are bank robberies common in your native country?

How do children save money in your native country? Do they use "piggy banks"?

What is the most convenient way to purchase items?

Discuss the pros and cons of:

...paying with checks?

...paying with credit cards?

...paying with cash?

**New words and Idioms:**