

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

HAPPINESS

'What Makes Us Happy' is a topic of a news article in the Sydney Morning Herald. The article reported the following things:

1. Money can't buy happiness.

The article said: "Over the past 50 years many countries in the world have become richer. But happiness has not increased. Americans **were less** happy in the 1990's than in the 1940's, even though they are much richer. People in Japan, who went from being poor in the 1950's to rich in the 1980's, did not become happier". What do you think? Does being richer make you happy? Why or why not?

2. Four in 10 Australians think life *is getting worse* even when our economy is better off than many other countries.

Do you think life is getting **worse** or **better**? Why or why not? What about in your country?

3. **The majority of Australians (77%)** think politicians should try and make us happier - **not** richer." What could the government do to make people happier? For example: Make more parks and BBQ's for people to enjoy.

4. Almost three in five Australians said their relationship with their family is the most important thing that made them happy.

What are the **5 most important things** that make you happy?

- Living in Brisbane
- Having a girl friend/boy friend/husband/wife
- Wearing the latest fashion
- Having a job
- Owning the latest technology
- Spending time with family
- Finding a good share house/ home stay
- Being healthy
- Knowing God
- Having friends
- Other.....

5. Only 5% of Australians surveyed said God was the most important relationship that made them happy. *In the Bible, Jesus talked a lot about true happiness.*

Jesus said:

1. **Happy** are those people who know they are **spiritually poor** – the kingdom of God belongs to them.
2. **Happy** are those who **mourn** – God will comfort them.
3. **Happy** are those people who are **humble** – they will receive what God has promised
4. **Happy** are those people whose greatest goal in life is to **do what God wants** – God will satisfy them fully!
5. **Happy** are those who are **merciful** to others – God will be merciful to them!
6. **Happy** are those who work for **peace** – God will call them his children!

The happiness that Jesus is talking about is a deeper happiness. It is not just a feeling but also a sense of peace and joy. A knowing about God and about yourself.

Vocabulary

Spiritually poor - know they need God's help
Mourn - are very sad about the sin or bad things they have done
Humble - not proud. They know they are not perfect
Merciful - kind and gentle
Peace - calm mind and heart. Not anxious or worried