ACTIVITY 01 / MY ACTIVITY SHEET

Penny's Needs vs. Wants Challenge



Tell the difference between something we need and something we want.

Ages 6-10 with a grown-up | 10-15 minutes | Print at actual size

Name: _____ Date: _____

A NEED helps us stay healthy and safe. A WANT is an extra we would like. Circle one answer for each situation.

Penny is choosing...	Circle one
Drinking water when she is thirsty	NEED WANT
A warm coat for cold weather	NEED WANT
A toy robot just for fun	NEED WANT
A filling meal when she is hungry	NEED WANT
An extra set of stickers for her collection	NEED WANT
A third soccer ball when two work well	NEED WANT

My own thoughtful choices

One thing I need, and why:

One thing I want and could save for:

Talk together: Can the same item be a need in one situation and a want in another?

ACTIVITY 01 / GROWN-UP GUIDE

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Learning goal

Tell the difference between something we need and something we want.

Try it together

1. Read each choice with a grown-up.

2. Choose need or want and explain why.

3. Think of one need and one want in your own life.

Answer key / worked example

Water: need. A warm coat in cold weather: need. A toy robot: want. A filling meal: need. An extra sticker set: want. A third soccer ball when two work well: want.

Grown-up notes

- A need supports health, safety, or basic daily life. A want is an extra we would like. Wants can be worth saving for, too.

- The answers below use the situations written on the sheet. Needs can change with context; listen to the child's explanation.

- Invite children to draw, point, or answer out loud. Keep the conversation kind: families have different needs and resources.

Keep the conversation going

What makes something a need today? What could you plan to save for later?

Vocabulary reference: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, youth financial education glossary. Original activities by Penny Hollow.