

Name _____

Date _____



Needs and Wants

Today we're going to talk about needs and wants...in just a minute.

A need is something you have to have in order to live. Some needs are free, like air to breathe. Other needs—like food, clothing, and a place to live—cost money.

A want is something you'd like to have but isn't essential—or necessary—to life. Wants sometimes feel like needs if we want them very, very much. Like, if all your friends are wearing Nikes, you might feel like you need to get them to fit in. But your life doesn't depend on having them. You probably do need shoes to get around, but you don't need those exact shoes. You want them.

People often want more than they can have. There are so many things available to us that we may have unlimited wants. But most of us don't have unlimited money to buy everything we want. That's why we have to make choices. It's important to focus on the things we need before getting the things we want.

Imagine you're shopping at the grocery store. What is one thing you need, and one thing you want?