
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 随身英语

Being super-rich 腰缠万贯



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Vocabulary: money 词汇: 金钱

Do you consider yourself to be **rich**? Do you have plenty of cash and no **financial worries**? Or maybe, like me, is it something you can only dream about? For most of us, the closest chance of becoming a **millionaire** would be to win the **lottery** but if you don't buy a lottery ticket, are there others ways of becoming super-rich?

A 'super-rich' person is often defined as someone with over \$30 million dollars of **assets** – so it's not just about having a suitcase stuffed full of **banknotes**! They usually own property, an expensive yacht or eat in **swanky** restaurants. And there appear to be more and more of these people, as it's reported that the number of super-rich is expected to increase by 43% over the next decade.

If you **save your pennies**, make the right investments and work hard, could you be one of them? It's unlikely because a report last year highlighted inequality in the world, saying the richest 62 individuals owned as much as the poorest 50%. But for those lucky ones who are **loaded**, what is it that they **splash the cash** on?

One academic in the UK, Emma Spence, has been researching just that - and her answer is yachts! It's the ultimate **status symbol** but she also says "a superyacht is essentially a **black hole** of wealth" – in other words, it continually eats your money and doesn't increase in value like an art collection might.

But if you've got the spare cash, why not have one! It's an excuse to show off your wealth and position in society. Interestingly, Emma Spence found that the size of someone's yacht shows their place in the **pecking order**. This is a good example of **conspicuous consumption** – buying something so someone else notices.

In the past you may have expected to find a super-rich, yacht-owning, **billionaire** to live in developed countries like the USA but now the wealthy can be found hanging out in most corners of the world. According to a report by Knight Frank, Vietnam is the country expected to have the fastest growth of super-rich over the next 10 years – an amazing 170% increase.

If all this makes you feel poor, remember that being wealthy doesn't necessarily make you happy. You don't have to waste time worrying about what to spend your money on. And you can feel rich in other ways by having good friends and family, good health or just a happy life - things that don't **cost the earth**. And if you really want a yacht, how about a toy one to play with in the bath?! How rich do you feel today?

词汇表

rich	富有的
financial worries	经济上的烦恼，财政方面的困扰
millionaire	百万富翁
lottery	彩票，抽奖
asset	资产，财产
banknote	钞票
swanky	时髦而高档的，奢华的
save your pennies	存钱，攒钱
loaded	（口语）有钱的
splash the cash	挥霍钱财
status symbol	身份和地位的象征
black hole	（吸金的）无底洞
pecking order	等级排序
conspicuous consumption	（贬义）炫耀性消费
billionaire	亿万富翁
cost the earth	花费天价

测验与练习

I. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What do you need to buy to win the lottery?
2. True or false? *Super-rich people are thought to have more than \$30 million in cash.*
3. According to the article, why does a super-rich person buy a yacht?
4. Which country is expected to have the fastest growth of super-rich over the next 10 years?
5. What chance is there of you becoming super-rich?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The company was in financial trouble and had to sell \$30 million of its _____ to pay off its debts.

lottery	banknotes	assets	black hole
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2. My husband took me to London for my birthday where we stayed in a _____ hotel.

millionaire	splash the cash	swanky	loaded
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3. Fine wines are becoming seen as a _____ in Nigeria, with sales doubling in volume over the past six years.

status symbol	state symbol	symbol status	status symbolic
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4. The survey found that rail passengers just want trains that are punctual, safe and reliable and don't _____ to use.

splash the cash	save the pennies	cost the earth	conspicuous consumption
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5. I know my place here – I always have to make the tea – there's clearly a _____ in the office!

peck order	peking order	pecking ordering	pecking order
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What do you need to buy to win the lottery?

You need a lottery ticket!

2. True or false? *Super-rich people are thought to have more than \$30 million in cash.*

False. A 'super rich' person is often defined as someone with over \$30 million dollars of assets – not just cash.

3. According to the article, why does a super-rich person buy a yacht?

It's an excuse for them to show off their wealth and position in society.

4. Which country is expected to have the fastest growth of super-rich over the next 10 years?

Vietnam is the country expected to have the fastest growth of super-rich over the next 10 years – an amazing 170% increase.

5. What chance is there of you becoming super-rich?

It's unlikely because a report last year highlighted inequality in the world, saying the richest 62 individuals owned as much as the poorest 50%.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. The company was in financial trouble and had to sell \$30 million of its **assets** to pay off its debts.

2. My husband took me to London for my birthday where we stayed in a **swanky** hotel.

3. Fine wines are becoming seen as a **status symbol** in Nigeria, with sales doubling in volume over the past six years.

4. The survey found that rail passengers just want trains that are punctual, safe and reliable and don't **cost the earth** to use.

5. I know my place here – I always have to make the tea – there's clearly a **pecking order** in the office!