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## **European Union wastes billions of euros**

**7th November, 2012**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

The European Union (EU) wasted a lot of money last year. The annual report on EU spending said the Union misspent almost five billion euros (around US\$6.4 billion). The boss of the European Court of Auditors, the group that made the report, said the EU was very careless and should look after its money better. He said his team "found too many cases of EU money not hitting the target". Vitor Caldeira, the Court's president, said that many Europeans have to be careful with their money because of the financial crisis. He said the EU should take greater care with its budget because of the weak economies in Europe: "These problems matter more than ever," he added.

A spokesperson from the EU told reporters that the spending mistakes were under 4 per cent of the total EU budget. He added this was better than the 7 per cent error rate from five years ago. Some of the mistakes were very big. The EU spent money on the wrong things. One example was they gave money for training electronics employees to other kinds of workers. Another was giving money to forestry projects instead of farming programmes. Mr Caldeira said that only two areas of the EU budget had no mistakes. Marta Andreasen of the UK Independence Party said the mistakes showed the EU was seriously mismanaged. She also said this problem should "set alarm bells ringing".

Sources: **LA Times**  
[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world\\_now/2012/11/billions-in-eu-missspending-eyed-as-group-faces-budget-talks.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/11/billions-in-eu-missspending-eyed-as-group-faces-budget-talks.html)  
**Wall Street Journal**  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204349404578102882645135370.html>

# WARM-UPS

**1. WASTING MONEY:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about wasting money. Change partners often. Share your findings with your first partner.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*wasted / annual report / five billion euros / careless / hitting the target / financial crisis / spending mistakes / budget / electronics / employees / independence / alarm bells*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. BUDGET:** How is yours? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change and share again.

Spending on...	% of budget	How necessary?	Anything a waste of money?
English			
Fashion			
Hobby			
Snacks			
Internet/Phone			
Going out			

**4. SPENDING:** Students A **strongly** believe governments are a waste of money; Students B **strongly** believe governments are not a waste of money. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. WHAT A WASTE!!!:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the biggest waste of money at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Another pair of jeans
- Theme park souvenirs
- Newspapers
- Tissues
- Alcohol
- Beauty products
- Video games
- Cars

**6. WASTE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'money'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| a. A new report came out about EU spending in 2008-2009.                   | T / F |
| b. A report said the European Union wasted round 6.4 billion euros.        | T / F |
| c. A report spokesman, Vitor Caldeira, said the EU did not hit its target. | T / F |
| d. Caldeira suggested the EU should spend as carefully as Europeans.       | T / F |
| e. The spending mistakes were just over 4% of the EU budget.               | T / F |
| f. Five years ago, the EU misspent 7% of its budget.                       | T / F |
| g. The EU gave money to forestry that should have gone to farming.         | T / F |
| h. The EU spent too much money on projects for alarm bells in the UK.      | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. waste        | a. make a difference |
| 2. annual       | b. mistake           |
| 3. careless     | c. yearly            |
| 4. target       | d. representative    |
| 5. matter       | e. misspend / misuse |
| 6. spokesperson | f. badly             |
| 7. error        | g. goal              |
| 8. rate         | h. slack             |
| 9. seriously    | i. warning signs     |
| 10. alarm bells | j. percentage        |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The European Union (EU) wasted  | a. money better       |
| 2. the Union misspent almost       | b. were very big      |
| 3. look after its                  | c. than ever          |
| 4. financial                       | d. mismanaged         |
| 5. These problems matter more      | e. had no mistakes    |
| 6. under 4 per cent of the total   | f. a lot of money     |
| 7. Some of the mistakes            | g. bells ringing      |
| 8. only two areas of the EU budget | h. EU budget          |
| 9. the EU was seriously            | i. five billion euros |
| 10. set alarm                      | j. crisis             |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The European Union (EU) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money last year. The annual report on EU spending said the Union misspent almost five billion euros ((2) \_\_\_\_\_ US\$6.4 billion). The boss of the European Court of Auditors, the group that made the (3) \_\_\_\_\_, said the EU was very careless and should look after its money better. He said his team "found too many (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of EU money not hitting the target". Vitor Caldeira, the Court's president, said that many Europeans have to be (5) \_\_\_\_\_ with their money because of the financial (6) \_\_\_\_\_. He said the EU should take greater care with its budget because of the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ economies in Europe: "These problems matter more than (8) \_\_\_\_\_," he added.

*crisis*  
*report*  
*weak*  
*around*  
*cases*  
*wasted*  
*ever*  
*careful*

A spokesperson from the EU told reporters that the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ mistakes were under 4 per cent of the total EU (10) \_\_\_\_\_. He added this was better than the 7 per cent error rate from five years ago. Some of the mistakes were very (11) \_\_\_\_\_. The EU spent money on the wrong things. One example was they gave money for training electronics (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to other kinds of workers. Another was giving money to forestry projects (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of farming programmes. Mr Caldeira said that only two (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of the EU budget had no mistakes. Marta Andreasen of the UK Independence Party said the mistakes showed the EU was (15) \_\_\_\_\_ mismanaged. She also said this problem should "set alarm bells (16) \_\_\_\_\_".

*employees*  
*ringing*  
*spending*  
*areas*  
*budget*  
*instead*  
*seriously*  
*big*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

- 1) The European Union (EU) wasted
  - a. loads of money
  - b. a lot of cash
  - c. billions and billions
  - d. a lot of money
- 2) the Union misspent almost
  - a. five billion euros
  - b. five billion dollars
  - c. 6.4 billion euros
  - d. 6.4 billion pounds
- 3) the EU was very careless and should look after its money
  - a. more
  - b. better
  - c. greater
  - d. more wisely
- 4) Europeans have to be careful with their money because of the
  - a. global financial crisis
  - b. financial problems
  - c. finance crisis
  - d. financial crisis
- 5) These problems matter more
  - a. than never
  - b. than ever
  - c. than before
  - d. than now
- 6) the spending mistakes were \_\_\_\_\_ of the total EU budget
  - a. under 4 per cent
  - b. over 4 per cent
  - c. under 7 per cent
  - d. over 7 per cent
- 7) He added this was better than the \_\_\_\_\_ error rate from five years ago
  - a. 17.5 per cent
  - b. 17 per cent
  - c. 70 per cent
  - d. 7 per cent
- 8) they gave money for training electronics employees to
  - a. other kinds of workers
  - b. other sorts of workers
  - c. other types of workers
  - d. other kind workers
- 9) only two areas of the EU budget had
  - a. new mistakes
  - b. non-mistakes
  - c. no mistakes
  - d. not mistakes
- 10) She also said this problem should set alarm bells
  - a. clanging
  - b. ringing
  - c. sounding
  - d. going off

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

The European Union (EU) (1) \_\_\_\_\_ money last year. The annual report on EU spending said the Union misspent almost five billion euros ((2) \_\_\_\_\_). The boss of the European Court of Auditors, the group that made the report, said the EU (3) \_\_\_\_\_ should look after its money better. He said his team "found too many cases of EU money (4) \_\_\_\_\_". Vitor Caldeira, the Court's president, said that many Europeans have to be careful with their money because (5) \_\_\_\_\_. He said the EU should take greater care with its budget because of the weak economies in Europe: "These problems (6) \_\_\_\_\_," he added.

A spokesperson from the EU told reporters that the spending mistakes were under 4 per cent of (7) \_\_\_\_\_. He added this was better than the 7 per cent (8) \_\_\_\_\_ years ago. Some of the mistakes were very big. The EU spent (9) \_\_\_\_\_ things. One example was they gave money for training electronics employees to (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Another was giving money to forestry projects instead of farming programmes. Mr Caldeira said that only two areas of the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ mistakes. Marta Andreasen of the UK Independence Party said the mistakes showed the EU was seriously mismanaged. She also said this problem should "(12) \_\_\_\_\_".

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

1. When did the EU waste a lot of money?

---

2. How much money in US dollars is 5 billion euros?

---

3. What did the EU not hit?

---

4. Why do Europeans have to be more careful?

---

5. What should the EU take greater care of?

---

6. What was under 4% of the total EU budget?

---

7. What was the error rate five years ago?

---

8. What kind of employees should have got money?

---

9. What got money instead of farms?

---

10. What did a British woman say might start ringing?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

- 1) When did the EU waste money?
  - a) Since it began.
  - b) Last year.
  - c) Two years ago.
  - d) Earlier this year.
- 2) What kind of report is in the article?
  - a) A financial report.
  - b) A terrible report.
  - c) An unpublished report.
  - d) An annual report.
- 3) What were there too many cases of?
  - a) The EU ringing alarm bells.
  - b) The EU not aiming properly.
  - c) The EU not hitting the target.
  - d) The EU not scoring.
- 4) Why are Europeans being careful?
  - a) Because of the financial crisis.
  - b) Because they are tired.
  - c) Because they have no jobs.
  - d) Because of the US economy.
- 5) What kind of economies are there in Europe?
  - a) recovering
  - b) weak
  - c) poorly
  - d) half-dead
- 6) What was the percentage of the spending mistakes?
  - a) Under 4%
  - b) Over 7%
  - c) Over 4%
  - d) 4%
- 7) When was the error rate 7%?
  - a) Three years ago
  - b) Four years ago
  - c) Five years ago
  - d) Six years ago
- 8) What programmes should have got money, but didn't?
  - a) Farming programmes
  - b) Fishing programmes
  - c) Fencing programmes
  - d) Flooring programmes
- 9) How many areas of the budget had no mistakes?
  - a) Five
  - b) Four
  - c) Three
  - d) Two
- 10) What should start ringing?
  - a) Church bells
  - b) Wedding bells
  - c) Alarm bells
  - d) Jingle bells

# ROLE PLAY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

## **Role A – The EU boss**

You are very happy that less than 4% of the EU budget is misspent. Think of three ideas why. Four per cent is very small. The EU makes fewer spending mistakes than most companies and people. You are tired of people who complain about the EU. It does a great, great, great job.

## **Role B – Vitor Caldeira**

You are shocked that the EU wastes so much money. There are many useful things they could spend the five billion euros on. Think of three things. You think the EU boss should lose his/her job because of the mistakes. The boss is rich so he / she doesn't care about wasting money.

## **Role C – A European farmer**

You are very, very, very angry that the EU wastes so much money. Think of 3 reasons why. You needed the EU money but it went to forests. Ask the EU boss why. Do NOT accept any of his/her answers. She/he is wrong, wrong, wrong. You think he/she should quit his/her job.

## **Role D – An EU budget worker**

You work for the budget office of the EU. You understand why the EU misspent 4% of its budget. Think of 3 reasons why. You think the boss does a great job. However, you have found an EU memo that says a 10% misspending rate is OK. Ask the EU boss about this.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'waste' and 'spend'.

<b>waste</b>	<b>spend</b>
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• last</li><li>• boss</li><li>• group</li><li>• careless</li><li>• crisis</li><li>• matter</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4%</li><li>• 7%</li><li>• wrong</li><li>• workers</li><li>• areas</li><li>• bells</li></ul>
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# WASTING MONEY SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

Write five GOOD questions about wasting money in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# WASTING MONEY DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'waste'?
- c) Do you waste money?
- d) What was your biggest waste of money?
- e) What do you think of the EU wasting so much money?
- f) Do you think people in the EU should quit their jobs because of this waste?
- g) Why do you think the EU budget did not hit the target?
- h) Are you good at budgeting?
- i) Has the financial crisis changed your life?
- j) How is your country in the financial crisis?

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# WASTING MONEY DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) What is the biggest waste of money in your country?
- c) How do you feel when you waste money?
- d) Is it natural for people to waste money?
- e) Is 4% waste OK / normal?
- f) What should the EU do about this waste?
- g) What do you think your country should spend its money on?
- h) Will the European economies be healthier next year?
- i) What kind of alarm bells might start ringing?
- j) What questions would you like to ask the boss of the EU?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - LANGUAGE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

The European Union (EU) wasted (1) \_\_\_\_\_ money last year. The annual report on EU spending said the Union (2) \_\_\_\_\_ almost five billion euros (around US\$6.4 billion). The boss of the European Court of Auditors, the group that made the report, said the EU was very (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and should look after its money better. He said his team "found too many cases of EU money not (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the target". Vitor Caldeira, the Court's president, said that many Europeans have to be careful with their money because of the financial (5) \_\_\_\_\_. He said the EU should take greater care with its budget because of the weak economies in Europe: "These problems matter more than (6) \_\_\_\_\_," he added.

A spokesperson from the EU told reporters that the spending mistakes were (7) \_\_\_\_\_ 4 per cent of the total EU budget. He added this was better than the 7 per cent error (8) \_\_\_\_\_ from five years ago. Some of the mistakes were very big. The EU spent money (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong things. One example was they gave money for training electronics employees to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of workers. Another was giving money to forestry projects instead of farming programmes. Mr Caldeira said that only two areas of the EU budget had (11) \_\_\_\_\_ mistakes. Marta Andreasen of the UK Independence Party said the mistakes showed the EU was seriously mismanaged. She also said this problem should "set alarm (12) \_\_\_\_\_ ringing".

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                 |               |              |              |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) a lot of    | (b) lots      | (c) loads    | (d) a lot    |
| 2.  | (a) misspending | (b) spenders  | (c) misspent | (d) spending |
| 3.  | (a) carelessly  | (b) carefully | (c) careless | (d) careful  |
| 4.  | (a) targeting   | (b) aiming    | (c) shooting | (d) hitting  |
| 5.  | (a) crimes      | (b) crispy    | (c) crisis   | (d) critics  |
| 6.  | (a) never       | (b) ever      | (c) even     | (d) ever-so  |
| 7.  | (a) less        | (b) under     | (c) pre      | (d) before   |
| 8.  | (a) date        | (b) rate      | (c) gate     | (d) late     |
| 9.  | (a) in          | (b) at        | (c) on       | (d) by       |
| 10. | (a) the others  | (b) others    | (c) another  | (d) other    |
| 11. | (a) none        | (b) not       | (c) non-     | (d) no       |
| 12. | (a) bills       | (b) balls     | (c) bell     | (d) bells    |

# SPELLING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. The European Union stwade a lot of money
2. the Union psemtsi almost five billion euros
3. the EU was very aerssice
4. ... because of the fainilcan crisis
5. the EU should take rreegta care with its budget
6. These psrolbem matter more than ever

## Paragraph 2

7. A snskooepspr from the EU
8. 7 per cent orerr rate
9. money for training electronics eeloysmpe
10. giving money to forestry projects ndeasit of farming
11. the EU was surisloey mismanaged
12. set alarm bells igrnnig



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

- ( ) on EU spending said the Union misspent almost five billion euros (around US\$6.4 billion). The boss of
- ( ) target". Vitor Caldeira, the Court's president, said that many Europeans have to be careful with their money because of the financial
- ( ) mistakes. Marta Andreasen of the UK Independence Party said the mistakes showed the EU was seriously
- ( ) big. The EU spent money on the wrong things. One example was they gave money for training electronics employees
- ( ) A spokesperson from the EU told reporters that the spending mistakes were under 4 per
- ( ) cent of the total EU budget. He added this was better than the 7 per cent error rate from five years ago. Some of the mistakes were very
- ( ) crisis. He said the EU should take greater care with its budget because of the weak
- ( **1** ) The European Union (EU) wasted a lot of money last year. The annual report
- ( ) to other kinds of workers. Another was giving money to forestry projects instead of farming
- ( ) programmes. Mr Caldeira said that only two areas of the EU budget had no
- ( ) after its money better. He said his team "found too many cases of EU money not hitting the
- ( ) economies in Europe: "These problems matter more than ever," he added.
- ( ) mismanaged. She also said this problem should "set alarm bells ringing".
- ( ) the European Court of Auditors, the group that made the report, said the EU was very careless and should look

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

1. year Union lot last European a money The wasted of.

---

2. EU money not hitting the target Too many cases of.

---

3. careful Europeans with have their to money be.

---

4. take with should care budget EU greater its The.

---

5. more ever These matter than problems.

---

6. spending per mistakes cent were under The 4.

---

7. was better than the 7 per cent error rate This.

---

8. money on The the EU wrong spent things.

---

9. of the EU budget had no mistakes Only two areas.

---

10. alarm set should problem This ringing bells.

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# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

The European Union (EU) *wasted / wasting* a lot of money last year. The annual report *on / in* EU spending said the Union misspent *most / almost* five billion euros (around US\$6.4 billion). The boss of the European Court of Auditors, the group that made the report, said the EU was very *carelessly / careless* and should look after its money *better / good*. He said his team "found too many cases of EU money *not / no* hitting the target". Vitor Caldeira, the Court's president, said *what / that* many Europeans have to be careful with their money because of the *financial / finances* crisis. He said the EU should take greater *careful / care* with its budget because of the weak economies in Europe: "These problems matter more than *ever / never,*" he added.

A spokesperson *from / by* the EU told reporters that the spending mistakes were *under / less* 4 per cent of the total EU budget. He added this was better than the 7 per cent error *date / rate* from five years ago. Some of the mistakes were very *bigger / big*. The EU spent money *in / on* the wrong things. One example was they gave money for training electronics employees to *other / another* kinds of workers. Another *were / was* giving money to forestry projects instead *for / of* farming programmes. Mr Caldeira said that only two areas of the EU budget had *no / not* mistakes. Marta Andreasen of the UK Independence Party said the mistakes showed the EU was seriously mismanaged. She also said this problem should "*set / let* alarm bells ringing".

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

Th\_ \_ \_ r\_p\_ \_ n\_ \_ n\_ \_ n ( \_ \_ ) w\_ st\_ d\_ \_ l\_ t\_ \_ f m\_ n\_ y l\_ st\_ y\_ \_ r. Th\_ \_ nn\_ \_ l\_ r\_p\_ rt\_ \_ n\_ \_ \_ sp\_ nd\_ ng\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ \_ n\_ \_ n\_ m\_ ssp\_ nt\_ \_ lm\_ st\_ f\_ v\_ \_ b\_ ll\_ \_ n\_ \_ r\_ s\_ ( \_ r\_ \_ nd\_ \_ S\$6.4 b\_ ll\_ \_ n). Th\_ \_ b\_ ss\_ \_ f\_ th\_ \_ \_ r\_p\_ \_ n\_ C\_ \_ rt\_ \_ f\_ \_ \_ d\_ t\_ rs, th\_ \_ gr\_ \_ p\_ th\_ t\_ m\_ d\_ th\_ \_ r\_p\_ rt, s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ \_ \_ w\_ s\_ v\_ ry\_ c\_ r\_ l\_ ss\_ \_ nd\_ sh\_ \_ ld\_ l\_ \_ k\_ \_ ft\_ r\_ \_ ts\_ m\_ n\_ y\_ b\_ tt\_ r. H\_ \_ s\_ \_ d\_ h\_ s\_ t\_ \_ m\_ "f\_ \_ nd\_ t\_ \_ m\_ ny\_ c\_ s\_ s\_ \_ f\_ \_ \_ m\_ n\_ y\_ n\_ t\_ h\_ tt\_ ng\_ th\_ \_ t\_ rg\_ t". V\_ t\_ r\_ C\_ ld\_ \_ r\_ , th\_ \_ C\_ \_ rt's\_ pr\_ s\_ d\_ nt, s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ t\_ m\_ ny\_ \_ r\_p\_ \_ ns\_ h\_ v\_ t\_ b\_ c\_ r\_ f\_ l\_ w\_ th\_ th\_ \_ r\_ m\_ n\_ y\_ b\_ c\_ \_ s\_ \_ f\_ th\_ \_ f\_ n\_ nc\_ \_ l\_ cr\_ s\_ s. H\_ \_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ \_ \_ sh\_ \_ ld\_ t\_ k\_ gr\_ \_ t\_ r\_ c\_ r\_ w\_ th\_ \_ ts\_ b\_ dg\_ t\_ b\_ c\_ \_ s\_ \_ f\_ th\_ \_ w\_ \_ k\_ c\_ n\_ m\_ \_ s\_ \_ n\_ \_ r\_p\_ : "Th\_ \_ s\_ pr\_ bl\_ ms\_ m\_ tt\_ r\_ m\_ r\_ th\_ n\_ \_ v\_ r," h\_ \_ dd\_ d.

\_ \_ sp\_ k\_ sp\_ rs\_ n\_ fr\_ m\_ th\_ \_ \_ t\_ ld\_ r\_p\_ rt\_ rs\_ th\_ t\_ th\_ \_ sp\_ nd\_ ng\_ m\_ st\_ k\_ s\_ w\_ r\_ \_ nd\_ r\_ 4\_ p\_ r\_ c\_ nt\_ \_ f\_ th\_ \_ t\_ t\_ l\_ \_ \_ b\_ dg\_ t. H\_ \_ dd\_ d\_ th\_ s\_ w\_ s\_ b\_ tt\_ r\_ th\_ n\_ th\_ \_ 7\_ p\_ r\_ c\_ nt\_ \_ rr\_ r\_ r\_ t\_ fr\_ m\_ f\_ v\_ \_ y\_ \_ rs\_ \_ g\_ . S\_ m\_ \_ f\_ th\_ \_ m\_ st\_ k\_ s\_ w\_ r\_ \_ v\_ ry\_ b\_ g. Th\_ \_ \_ sp\_ nt\_ m\_ n\_ y\_ \_ n\_ th\_ \_ wr\_ ng\_ th\_ ngs. \_ n\_ \_ x\_ mpl\_ w\_ s\_ th\_ y\_ g\_ v\_ m\_ n\_ y\_ f\_ r\_ tr\_ \_ n\_ ng\_ \_ l\_ ctr\_ n\_ cs\_ \_ mpl\_ y\_ \_ s\_ t\_ \_ th\_ r\_ k\_ nds\_ \_ f\_ w\_ rk\_ rs. \_ n\_ th\_ r\_ w\_ s\_ g\_ v\_ ng\_ m\_ n\_ y\_ t\_ \_ f\_ r\_ stry\_ pr\_ j\_ cts\_ \_ nst\_ \_ d\_ \_ f\_ f\_ rm\_ ng\_ pr\_ gr\_ mm\_ s. Mr\_ C\_ ld\_ \_ r\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ t\_ \_ nly\_ tw\_ \_ r\_ \_ s\_ \_ f\_ th\_ \_ \_ b\_ dg\_ t\_ h\_ d\_ n\_ m\_ st\_ k\_ s. M\_ rt\_ \_ ndr\_ \_ s\_ n\_ \_ f\_ th\_ \_ K\_ \_ nd\_ p\_ nd\_ nc\_ P\_ rty\_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ \_ m\_ st\_ k\_ s\_ sh\_ w\_ d\_ th\_ \_ \_ w\_ s\_ s\_ r\_ \_ sly\_ m\_ sm\_ n\_ g\_ d. Sh\_ \_ ls\_ \_ s\_ \_ d\_ th\_ s\_ pr\_ bl\_ m\_ sh\_ \_ ld\_ "s\_ t\_ \_ l\_ \_ rm\_ b\_ lls\_ r\_ ng\_ ng".

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

the european union (eu) wasted a lot of money last year the annual report on eu spending said the union misspent almost five billion euros (around us\$64 billion) the boss of the european court of auditors the group that made the report said the eu was very careless and should look after its money better he said his team "found too many cases of eu money not hitting the target" vitor caldeira the court's president said that many europeans have to be careful with their money because of the financial crisis he said the eu should take greater care with its budget because of the weak economies in europe "these problems matter more than ever" he added

a spokesperson from the eu told reporters that the spending mistakes were under 4 per cent of the total eu budget he added this was better than the 7 per cent error rate from five years ago some of the mistakes were very big the eu spent money on the wrong things one example was they gave money for training electronics employees to other kinds of workers another was giving money to forestry projects instead of farming programmes mr caldeira said that only two areas of the eu budget had no mistakes marta andreasen of the uk independence party said the mistakes showed the eu was seriously mismanaged she also said this problem should "set alarm bells ringing"

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

The European Union (EU) wasted a lot of money last year. The annual report on EU spending said the Union missed almost five billion euros (around US\$6.4 billion). The boss of the European Court of Auditors, the group that made the report, said the EU was very careless and should look after its money better. He said his team "found too many cases of EU money not hitting the target". Vitor Caldeira, the Court's president, said that many Europeans have to be careful with their money because of the financial crisis. He said the EU should take greater care with its budget because of the weak economies in Europe: "These problems matter more than ever," he added. A spokesperson from the EU told reporters that the spending mistakes were under 4 percent of the total EU budget. He added this was better than the 7 percent error rate from five years ago. Some of the mistakes were very big. The EU spent money on the wrong things. One example was they gave money for training electronics employees to other kinds of workers. Another was giving money to forestry projects instead of farming programmes. Mr Caldeira said that only two areas of the EU budget had no mistakes. Marta Andreasen of the UK Independence Party said the mistakes showed the EU was seriously mismanaged. She also said this problem should "set alarm bells ringing".



# ACADEMIC WRITING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste\\_of\\_money.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1211/121107-waste_of_money.html)

*People spend too much money on things they don't need. They should give the money to charity instead. Discuss.*

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about wasting money. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. WASTING MONEY:** Make a poster about wasting money. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. BUDGET:** Write a magazine article about budgets. Include imaginary interviews with people who are good at making them.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to the boss of the EU. Ask him/her three questions about the EU wasting money. Give him/her three of your opinions on this. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a. F    b. F    c. T    d. T    e. F    f. T    g. T    h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. waste        | a. misspend / misuse |
| 2. annual       | b. yearly            |
| 3. careless     | c. slack             |
| 4. target       | d. goal              |
| 5. matter       | e. make a difference |
| 6. spokesperson | f. representative    |
| 7. error        | g. mistake           |
| 8. rate         | h. percentage        |
| 9. seriously    | i. badly             |
| 10. alarm bells | j. warning signs     |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Last year
2. Around US\$6.4 billion
3. The target
4. Because of the financial crisis
5. Its budget
6. Spending mistakes
7. 7%
8. Training electronics employees
9. Forests / Forestry
10. Alarm bells

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b    2. d    3. c    4. a    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. d    10. c

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)