WHAT DO PEOPLE IN YOUR COUNTRY VALUE THE MOST?

B2 English • Vocabulary, word families & speaking practice

1. Vocabulary: English-to-English meanings

Word	Meaning	Example
Value (noun / verb)	Noun: a belief or principle that a person or society considers important. Verb: to consider someone or something important or useful.	*Many people value honesty and family relationships.*
Co-operation (noun)	The act of working together with other people to achieve a shared goal.	*Co-operation between neighbours can make a community safer.*
Criteria (plural noun)	The standards or requirements used to judge, compare, or decide something. (Singular: criterion.)	*Salary and job satisfaction are important criteria when choosing a career.*
Satisfaction (noun)	A happy or pleased feeling because something is good, useful, or meets your needs.	*For some people, job satisfaction matters more than a high income.*
Access (noun / verb)	Noun: the opportunity or right to use, enter, or get something. Verb: to reach, use, or obtain something.	*Everyone should have access to good-quality education.*
Balance (noun / verb)	Noun: a situation in which different parts of life receive suitable attention. Verb: to give the right amount of time or importance to different things.	*It can be difficult to balance work and family life.*
Opportunity (noun)	A situation that makes it possible to do or achieve something.	*Learning English can create more career opportunities.*
Income (noun)	Money that a person or household receives, usually from work, business, or investments.	*A stable income can help people feel financially secure.*
Wealth (noun)	A large amount of money, valuable possessions, or other resources; more broadly, a state of being rich.	*Wealth does not always lead to happiness.*
Afford (verb)	To have enough money, time, or resources to do or buy something without causing serious difficulty.	*Some families cannot afford a holiday abroad.*

2. Parts of speech: noun, verb & adjective

Some words have more than one grammatical form. Use the form that fits the sentence.

Base word	Noun	Verb	Adjective
Balance	balance	balance	balanced / unbalanced
Access	access	access	accessible / inaccessible
Satisfaction	satisfaction	satisfy	satisfied / satisfying / satisfactory
Afford	affordability	afford	affordable / unaffordable
Value	value	value	valuable / valued

Word-family examples

• A good work-life **balance** is important. (noun)

• She tries to **balance** work and study. (verb)

• The building is fully **accessible**. (adjective)

• The course gave me a lot of **satisfaction**. (noun)

• The result was **satisfactory**. (adjective)

• This phone is more **affordable** than that one. (adjective)

• They **value** teamwork. (verb)

• Trust is a **valuable** quality. (adjective)

3. B2 Speaking Practice

Main question: What do people in your country value the most?

Try to give reasons, examples, comparisons and a balanced opinion. Avoid answering with only one-word ideas.

Warm-up questions

1. What are the three most important things in life for people in your country?
2. Do people value money and wealth more than happiness or relationships?
3. What qualities do people value in a good friend or colleague?
4. How important are education and career opportunities?
5. Has what people value changed over the last 20 years? Why?

Develop your ideas

6. Which criteria do people use when choosing a job: income, satisfaction, security, or flexibility?
7. Do all people have equal access to good education and healthcare in your country?
8. How can people balance work, family, health, and personal interests?
9. What opportunities should governments create for young people?
10. Is it becoming harder for ordinary people to afford housing, education, or holidays?
11. Does wealth bring freedom and satisfaction, or can it create pressure?
12. Why is co-operation important in families, workplaces, and communities?

Discuss and challenge

13. “Money can’t buy happiness.” To what extent do you agree?
14. Should a person choose a high-income job or a job they find meaningful?
15. Are traditional values becoming less important to younger generations?
16. Which is more valuable for a society: individual success or co-operation?
17. If you could change one thing to improve people’s quality of life in your country, what would it be?

Useful B2 language

In my view, ...	In my view, family and financial security are both important.
One of the main reasons is that ...	One of the main reasons is that housing has become less affordable.
Compared with the past, ...	Compared with the past, young people may have more access to information.
Although ..., ...	Although wealth offers comfort, it does not guarantee satisfaction.
It depends on ...	It depends on a person’s circumstances and priorities.
To some extent, ...	To some extent, people’s values are shaped by their upbringing.
What matters most is ...	What matters most is having opportunities and feeling respected.

Pair task: Speak for 1–2 minutes. Choose three values that are important in your country, rank them, and justify your choices with examples. Your partner should ask one follow-up question and respectfully challenge one point.