When we use the words “want” and “need,” it’s easy to mix up their meanings. A need is something that’s essential for you to be healthy, safe, educated, or treated fairly. A want is something you’d like, but you can live without it.

Sometimes advertisers make new gadgets or clothes look so exciting, you feel like you really need them to survive. But with careful thought, you can tell the difference between needs and wants. You might decide to go ahead and buy a new game you want, if you think it’s worth the price. Or maybe you’ll save your money or donate some to charity.

When you can tell the difference between wants and needs, it’s easier to make tough decisions about money and stuff. You know that having cool stuff can be fun or helpful, but it’s not the most important thing in life. Your family, friends, and spirit are your true wealth.

Unscramble the words to complete each line. Then circle the kids who are talking about needs, instead of wants.

1. I’ve gotta get a better phone so I can (DWNODLOA) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ more stuff.
2. My (TOAC) _ _ _ _ doesn’t fit. Glad I found a new one.
3. I must have the newest (TREMPOCU) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _! I’ve had mine for six months!
4. I’m thirsty—I’m getting a drink of (ATWRE) _ _ _ _ _ .
5. It feels good to get (RXECSIEE) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .
6. Here are the (SOKOB) _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ we have to get for class.
7. That bully at school is getting worse. I have to get some (LEHP) _ _ _ _ _ _ .
8. Everybody is wearing those new designer (SJENA) _ _ _ _ _ . I must get a pair.
9. These are so yummy. I could eat a (ONDEZ) _ _ _ _ _ _ .
10. Even if some kids try to exclude you, try out for the team. You deserve a (ACNICHE) _ _ _ _ _ _ .