



## A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Learners discuss what happened in certain years of their lives

Level:	Pre-Intermediate - Advanced
Target Audience:	Secondary, Adults
Language / Skills Focus:	Simple Past, Speaking
Activity Time:	15 - 20 minutes
Materials:	None

### IN CLASS

1 Ask your learners to consider the multitude of events and aspects of life which can happen in a person's life in one year. Brainstorm this idea with the class, and write a list of their suggestions on the board. Your list will probably become extremely long, so it may be advisable to set a time limit. Typically, this list will range from the mundane to the life-changing, and might include the following:

school - exams - love - relationships - illnesses - family - friends - work - holidays - home - pets - hobbies & interests - travel - accidents - good / bad news - births - deaths - marriages - engagements - festivals - food - drink - successes / failures.

2 When your learners have exhausted their ideas, check carefully that they understand the meaning of everything on the board.

3 Now form groups of three or four, and ask each learner to dip into their pockets or purses and take out several coins. Tell each learner to choose any three coins which are dated after their year of birth. Groups should avoid duplicate years.

4 Explain that each group should pool their coins in the centre of the table with the date-sides facing down. One learner should turn over a coin and talk about what happened to them in that year, using the suggestions on the board as a checklist.

5 The activity will reach its natural conclusion when all the coins have been turned over and the years talked about.

6 Finally, ask learners to tell the class about any particularly interesting (surprising, strange, positive) stories they heard.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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