

The Businessman and the Fisherman

Task 1: Read the story and mark all the past tense verbs in **bold**.

A businessman was on vacation in a fishing village. One morning, he met a young fisherman in a small boat with some yellowfin tuna fish. "What beautiful tuna!" the businessman exclaimed. "How long did it take to catch them?" the businessman asked.

"Oh about two hours," said the fisherman.

The businessman asked, "Why didn't you fish for longer and catch more?"

The fisherman replied, "I didn't want to fish for longer. With this I have enough for my family."

"But what do you do with the rest of your day? Aren't you bored?", asked the Businessman.

The fisherman smiled, "I'm never bored. I get up late, play with my children, watch soccer, and take a nap. Sometimes in the evenings I walk to the village to see my friends, play the guitar, and sing some songs."

The businessman couldn't understand, "Look, I am a very successful businessman. I went to an excellent college and I studied business. I can help you. Fish for four hours every day and sell the extra fish you catch. Then, you can buy a bigger boat, catch more, and make more money. Then buy a second boat, a third, and so on, until you have a big fleet of fishing boats. You can export the fish and leave this village and move to the big city and open a fishing business."

The fisherman smiled, "But how long will all this take?"

The businessman thought about it for a minute. "Probably about 20 years," he said.

"And then what?" asked the fisherman.

"Why, that's the exciting part!" laughed the businessman. "You can sell your business and become very rich, a millionaire!"

"A millionaire? Really? But what do I do with all the money?" The young fisherman didn't look excited.

The businessman could not understand this young man. "Well, you can stop work and move to a beautiful old fishing village where you can sleep late, play with your grandchildren, watch soccer, take a nap, and walk to the village in the evenings where you can play the guitar, and sing with your friends all you want."

The fisherman's wife and children came running to meet him. "Daddy, Daddy, did you catch many fish?"

"I caught enough for us today and tomorrow, and also some for this gentleman," said the father. He gave the businessman some fish, thanked him for his advice, and went home with his family.

Critical Thinking: Discuss these questions with your partners.

- 1) What do you think are the businessman's values?
- 2) How are they different to the fisherman's values?
- 3) Who do you think has a happier (más feliz) life? Why?
- 4) What do you think is the meaning of this story? Why?
 - a) "Money makes the world go around."
 - b) "Understand what really matters in life."
 - c) "Don't listen to other people's advice."
 - d) "Work more, earn more!"