

Begging should be banned



Discussion questions

1. Have you ever given money to people begging on the street?
2. What do you think they do with the money?
3. What would your daily life be like if you were homeless?
4. What would be the biggest challenges of someone who was homeless?
5. Is homelessness and begging the same issue or are they just closely related?
6. How would you solve the issues of modern day homelessness?

Statistics—True or false? (answers on the next page)

1. Police figures show that of 1,002 people arrested for begging in 2014 in the UK, there were 808 who were legally defined as homeless.
2. In South Africa, beggars can earn up to \$50 per day.
3. There are approximately 2.41 million homeless adults and 179,000 children on the streets in China.

Useful vocabulary

1. to fall on hard times - have a difficult time
2. Blisters - a small bubble on the skin
3. Isolation - to be alone
4. Critical - something very important
5. Good Samaritan - a charitable or helpful person

Reading - Surviving the Streets

In recent years all around the world many are increasingly becoming homeless due to no fault of their own. For many wages in the developed world has not risen in line with the cost of living. This has meant when people experience financial difficulty they are left on the streets.

So, how do people survive living on the streets? To begin with the population of homelessness are not all the same. Some have **fallen on hard times**, others are drug addicts, a small percentage are suffering from mental health issues, and others are running away from problems at home. The reasons are varied, so we need to treat each case individually.

Many survive by forming friendships and staying in close groups. They help each other when in need and share what they have with each other. That said, many often do to socialise with other groups because the chance of theft or being hurt increases. So, many stay in **isolation**.

Staying mobile a priority as you would need to continually find places to source food, money, and help. Local police and private security are also keen to move people along so they do not attract anti-social behaviour.

Keeping warm and dry is often quite hard, but ensuring your feet are in peak condition is even more important. When it rains cover your feet with a plastic bag. Having wet feet in your shoes will cause **blisters**, infections, and long-term health problems.

Staying clean is another top priority. Using public bathrooms as often as possible to wash your body (the most important areas first) and cleaning your face is **critical**. Make sure you are fast and do not attract attention. Remember, you want to use this public bathroom again in the future.

Lastly, no matter how long it takes, always try to get help. There are agencies and sometimes a **Good Samaritan** who can offer a way out.

Answers

1. False, it was 199 (BBC News, 2015)
2. False, it's \$18/per day (News24.com, Feb 2013)
3. True (Wikipedia, 2012)