

How desperate do you have to be to sell one of your own body parts? Sadly, this grisly question is being asked all too often. Take Pavle and Daniella Mircov of Serbia. The parents of two teenagers, they have been hard-hit by the financial crisis currently sweeping Europe. Out of work and unable to put food on the table, the couple recently advertised their organs for sale on the internet. They are not alone.

The sale of body parts is illegal in this country and most other parts of the world. Given the shortfall of organ donation and the increasing number of willing sellers, is it time to rethink the issue? Public opinion is divided. Would you buy or sell a kidney?

Stacey, 32, hairdresser

"I don't see anything wrong with it. The bottom line is that more lives will be saved. If I had the choice between buying a kidney and dying, I certainly know which I'd choose!"

Rachel, 19, student

"No way would I buy a kidney from someone online. It's a ridiculous idea. Who knows what diseases they have? You might end up with AIDS or something. I reckon it should be illegal."

Kosta, 55, accountant

"My concern is the potential for abuse. People living in poverty might be exploited by others looking to make big bucks. If this became legal, we would need regulations to protect the vulnerable."

Jason, 23, salesman

"It's not like selling a part for your car – removing organs is risky! Then again, we do lots of risky things. Like driving. We don't all stay off the roads just in case we're in a crash! I think if people understand the risks and they still want to go ahead, then they should be allowed to. It's a free world."

Read each question carefully and circle one answer.

1 Which spelling is incorrect?

- desperate
- vulnerable
- ilegal
- financial

2 Which spelling is correct?

- ridiculous
- ridiculus
- ridickulus
- ridicolous

3 Which word is used incorrectly in this sentence?

Kosta is concerned about the possibility of people exploited each other through an unregulated system.

- concerned
- possibility
- system
- exploited

4 Which of the following words is a synonym of *grisly*?

- crisis
- gruesome
- risky
- dying

5 Which of the following is an antonym of *vulnerable*?

- defenceless
- weak
- helpless
- invincible

6 Which of these words is not a compound noun?

- shortfall
- everywhere
- salesman
- donation

7 Which words have been combined in the contraction *I'd*?

- I have
- I would
- I will
- I am

8 Which phrase is used to refer to the views of the people in a society?

- public opinion
- private opinion
- personal opinion
- factual opinion

9 Which pronoun could be used to correctly complete this sentence?

*No way would I buy a kidney from * online.*

- those
- each
- anyone
- nobody

10 What types of nouns are the words *Daniella* and *Europe*?

- collective nouns
- proper nouns
- abstract nouns
- pronouns

11 What type of word is *AIDS*?

- an acronym
- an antonym
- an abbreviation
- a preposition

12 Which verb is the past-tense form of 'to donate'?

- donates
- will be donating
- donated
- can donate

13 Which conjunction would be used to combine these two sentences?
Rachel thinks that selling body parts could promote the spread of disease. She thinks the practice should be outlawed.

- but
- when
- because
- and

14 Which word correctly completes this sentence?
*The Mircovs of Serbia are putting * organs up for sale.*

- their
- there
- they're
- that

15 Which adjective would best complete this sentence?
*The sale of body parts is * in this country.*

- financial
- illegal
- vulnerable
- willing

16 Which suffix is used to turn *certain* into an adverb?

- al
- ise
- tion
- ly

17 Which type of sentence is this?
It's not like selling a part for your car – removing organs is risky!

- compound
- complex
- simple
- fragment

18 Which group of words is the adverbial clause in this sentence?
If this became legal, we would need something that would protect the vulnerable.

- we would need something
- that would protect the vulnerable
- If this became legal
- would need

19 Which of the following is correctly punctuated?

- Unfortunately there are so many australians needing new Kidneys that some will die while waiting for a transplant.
- Unfortunately, there are so many Australians needing new kidneys that some will die while, waiting for a transplant.
- Unfortunately there are so many Australians, needing new kidneys that some will die while waiting for a transplant.
- Unfortunately, there are so many Australians needing new kidneys that some will die while waiting for a transplant.

20 Which punctuation mark is not used in this expression?

Stacey, 32, hairdresser: "I don't see anything wrong with it."

- quotation marks
- semicolon
- colon
- comma

Text type: Discussion

NAPLAN*-style questions: Language conventions

- 1 illegal
- 2 ridiculous
- 3 exploited
- 4 gruesome
- 5 invincible
- 6 donation
- 7 I would
- 8 public opinion
- 9 anyone
- 10 proper nouns
- 11 an acronym
- 12 donated
- 13 and
- 14 their
- 15 illegal
- 16 -ly
- 17 compound
- 18 If this became legal
- 19 Unfortunately, there are so many Australians needing new kidneys that some will die while waiting for a transplant.
- 20 semicolon