

The "Pay Me" Game Questions

Question: Have your parents ever heated the kitchen with the stove or oven?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$10

No: pay ME envelope \$10

(If you ever see someone doing this you should tell them that is dangerous, expensive and doesn't work very well.)

Question: Do you use a portable electric heater in the winter?

Yes: pay ME \$10

No: pay UTILITY \$10

(In general, portable heaters are one of the least efficient heating sources. If you're the only one that is cold, consider putting on an extra sweater or socks instead of using the heater to warm up your room.)

Question: Do you have air conditioning for your entire house?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$10

(The average central air conditioner costs between 20-60 cents an hour to operate. You can save money on refrigerated air conditioning if you keep windows and doors closed during the heat of the day. At night you can turn off the air conditioner, open the doors and windows and turn on fans to get cool outdoor air into the house. Be sure to close the house back up before it gets warm the following day.)

Question: Do you have a window air conditioner for one room?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$20

No: pay ME \$20

(Cooling only one room or area of your house costs much less than cooling the entire house. Keep the doors closed to unused rooms.)

Question: Does your freezer have an ice maker?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5

(It is cheaper to make ice cubes with ice trays in your freezer.)

Question: Do you have more than one refrigerator or freezer at your house?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$10 for every extra refrigerator or freezer

(The average refrigerator costs about \$7 a month; that's \$84 a year)

Question: In the summer are the drapes or blinds in your home closed to keep out the heat?

Yes: Pay ME \$10

No: pay UTILITY \$5

(Closing drapes and putting up shades keeps the sun and warm air from getting into your house, which keeps your house much cooler. Students will probably be familiar with how light coming through a window can heat up a car on a hot day. A house with direct sunlight coming in heats up the same way.)

Question: Do you take baths in the bathtub?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5

(A bath takes at least 15 gallons of hot water, that's at least 24 cents per bath. In a month that's \$7.20 per person)

Question: Do you take showers that are less than 5 minutes long?

Yes: pay ME \$5

No: pay UTILITY \$5

(A shower that is less than 5 minutes will use less than 20 cents of hot water.)

Question: How many members of your family take showers that are more than 5 minutes long?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5 for each person in your family who does this.

Question: Do you use a hair dryer?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5

No: pay ME \$5

(It costs about 9 cents every hour that you use a hair dryer.)



Question: Do you always turn off the lights every time you leave a room?

Yes: pay ME \$5

No: pay UTILITY \$5

Question: Do you wash and dry your dishes in the dishwasher?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5

No: pay ME \$5

Question: Do you open the door to the dishwasher to let your dishes air dry instead of using the heat cycle?

Yes: Pay ME \$5

No: pay UTILITY \$5

Question: Are your clothes dried in a clothes dryer?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$10

No: pay ME \$10

(It costs about 33 cents an hour to operate.

This can get very expensive after a few loads of clothes. Cleaning the filters after each load is dried and drying one load after another so the drum doesn't have to be reheated for each load will save money.)

Question: Do you have an electric blanket?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5

No: pay ME \$5

(Electric blankets cost about 38 cents a night or about \$12 a month per person. Using warm pajamas and blankets saves the most energy. But if your room is still too cold at night it costs less to use an electric blanket than it does to heat up the whole room.)

Question: Do you have a laptop or tablet at home?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5 for every laptop or tablet in your house.

(Even though most laptops use a small amount of electricity, they are often used for several hours and the electricity adds up. Save energy by only plugging them in when they need to be charged and unplugging the charger from the wall when they are fully charged.)

Question: Do you have cable or satellite TV?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5

No: pay ME \$5

(Cable is powered by a cable box and satellite TV by a satellite dish, both of which use constant electricity to power.)

Question: Do you have a TV in your house?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5 per TV in your house

(It costs the average household about \$2.50 a month to use a TV.)

Question: Do you play video games?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5 for every game console in your house

No: pay ME \$5

(Even though most video games are electronic and use a small amount of electricity, usually they are played for many hours and the electricity adds up.)

Question: Do you use an electric can opener?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5

No: pay ME \$5

(A good hand-operated opener works well for most people.)

Question: Do you have a hot tub?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$5

No: pay ME \$5

(It costs about 52 cents every hour of use.)

Question: Do you have a swimming pool?

Yes: pay UTILITY \$20

(Pools are expensive to operate, especially if you heat them. The pool pump alone costs about 12 cents an hour to operate.)

Energy cost was calculated at \$0.12/kWh, the 2015 U.S. average, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

