

Wants and Needs

A **want** is a desire or wish to have something.

A **need** is something a person must have for basic survival, to maintain a minimum standard of living or social status. When someone really needs an item, it is because they have something essential to gain from its use.

Wants, on the other hand, are usually acquired just for the sake of having them; they are not always useful nor always utilized.

Wants are luxuries and **needs** are necessities that you cannot do without. They are important to your survival.

Classification of Needs

- 1) **Primary needs** – food, clothing, shelter. Also called basic or just needs. (Abraham Maslow, an American Psychologist, regards “sex” as a basic physical need, but in the Caribbean ‘sex is arguably treated as a want.
- 2) **Secondary Needs** - family, safety and welfare maintenance of the marriage - looking after children’s welfare (sending them to school, buying them books, loving them) These family-centered issues are regarded as needs because neglect of them, for instance, in the taking of ‘outside spouses’, frequently leads to real threats to health and well-being: domestic violence, murder, suicide, divorce, etc.
- 3) **Tertiary needs** - preserving status, esteem and independence, (enjoying comfortable and affordable lifestyles - good food, home improvements, computers, internet, cell-phone) Such needs can dangerously transform into wants.