## **Life Insurance: The Basics**



Provided by the Insurance Education Institute

Life Insurance: 120 (1)

## Procedure/Lecture Outline

- 1) Ask students what the one guarantee in life is
- 2) Guide students through the Power Point presentation (link)
  - a. You buy health insurance in case you get sick
  - b. You buy automobile insurance in case you have an accident
  - c. You buy homeowners insurance in case your property gets damaged
  - d. You don't buy life insurance to plan for your death
  - e. Life Insurance is to protect the people who depend on you and would suffer a financial loss when you die
  - f. A beneficiary is the person or legal entity, such as a charity, designated to receive the death benefit
  - g. The death benefit is the sum paid to the beneficiary by the insurance company
  - Usually people buy life insurance to protect their children, a surviving spouse, a disabled relative, or elderly parents
  - i. It ensures that the dependent family members will be able to afford and maintain their lifestyle or receive the care they had before the death
  - j. Reasons to Buy Life Insurance
    - i. To provide immediate cash to pay for a funeral, any other costs arising from the death, or pressing debts
    - ii. To provide funds that are income tax-free
    - iii. To pay off a mortgage or other loans
    - iv. To provide housekeeping and child care services so that the surviving spouse can enter the workforce
    - v. To provide the surviving spouse sufficient funds to stay at home or reduce work hours
    - vi. To provide dependents with an emergency fund
  - k. How life insurance works
    - i. A legally binding contract between an insurance company (insurer) and an individual (insured)
    - ii. In exchange for payment of premiums, the insurer agrees to pay a specified death benefit
    - iii. The premiums collected from all policy holders are placed in an insurance pool
    - iv. The Insurance Company can invest the money in the pool but must have enough on hand to pay out a large number of claims
  - l. How insurers reduce risk
    - i. Insurance companies want to enroll low-risk people
    - ii. If a person dies shortly after they are insured the company has not had enough time to collect enough premiums to cover the loss
  - m. Underwriting Life Insurance
    - i. Underwriting is the process of assessing applicants to determine whether they are good risks
    - ii. An underwriter's job is to minimize the risk the company takes
    - iii. Factors in underwriting:
      - 1. Present health
      - 2. Medical history
      - 3. Family medical history
      - 4. Lifestyle
      - 5. Occupation

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- n. Mortality Tables
  - i. Sophisticated statistical averages of how long a person of a certain age, gender, ethnic background and so on can be expected to live
  - ii. Tables also consider your health, medical history, occupation
- o. Premium Class
- p. Insureds are placed into classes based on results from underwriting
  - i. The better the class the lower the premiums
- q. How much life insurance should a person have?
  - i. Factors:
  - ii. Number of dependents
  - iii. Ages and needs of dependents
  - iv. Balance on mortgage or monthly rent payments
  - v. Balance of loans
  - vi. Health insurance
  - vii. Tuition
  - viii. Basic necessities
- r. Where do you buy life insurance?
  - i. Some employers offer it as a benefit
  - ii. Insurance companies sell insurance through experienced agents
  - iii. You can buy life insurance through the internet