

English Vocabulary – “worth”

1. to be worth (PT: valer)

Examples:

1. My house **is worth** one million dollars!
2. This car **is not worth** anything. It's useless!
3. The painting **is worth** one thousand dollars.
4. This phone **is worth** every penny that I paid.
5. This phone **is not worth** what I paid.
6. A: Do you want to buy my car? B: How much **is it worth**?
A: 1,000 dollars. B: Yes, please!

2. **It's worth it!** (*Vale a pena!*)
It's not worth it! (*Não vale a pena!/Não adianta!*)
Is it worth it? (*Vale a pena?*)
It was worth it! (*Valeu a pena!*)
Was it worth it? (*Valeu a pena?*)
It's worth ... (*Vale a pena .../Adianta ...*) – demands a gerund
It's not worth ... (*Não vale a pena .../Não adianta ...*) – demands a gerund

Note: The structure 'to be worth' is transitive – it demands an object. If the object is a verb or verb phrase, then the verb must be in gerund form.

Examples:

1. This phone **is not worth buying**.
2. **It's worth watching** this film.
3. The entrance fee to the museum is \$50, but **it's worth it!**
4. A: To be a doctor, I have to study for 7 years!
B: **Is it worth it?**
A: Absolutely!
5. **It's worth learning** English, because it's so useful in today's world.
6. I don't know if **it's worth moving** so far from the city for a new job.
7. **It's not worth painting** my car – it's very rusty.
8. **It's not worth speaking** English with Pedro, he only speaks Portuguese.

3. It's worthwhile ... (*Vale a pena ...*) – demands a gerund

Note: The structure 'to be worthwhile' is not transitive – it doesn't need an object. But if an object is used, and it is a verb or verb phrase, then the verb must be in gerund form.

1. It's a long way for me to go to work, but it's definitely **worthwhile!**
2. **It's worthwhile learning** English. Many companies demand it.
3. Do you think that **it's worthwhile going** to school today?

Suggested song: **Worth It:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KgZ31ycLKY> (4 mins)

Exercise. Translate the following to English.

1. Vale a pena? Sim, vale a pena!

2. Não vale a pena aprender latim.

3. Se você gosta de uísque, vale a pena ir à Escócia.

4. Valeu a pena comprar aquele carro?

5. Não adianta se mudar para São Paulo.

6. Você fez aulas de Francês. Adiantou alguma coisa?
