

# If you find \$100, is it yours to keep?



Some people would keep the money. Others would try to give it back. What would you do?



There's a citywide race coming up and you're the best biker around. You're definitely faster than the kids in your neighborhood and probably faster than

the ones in the city.

There's only one problem. Your bike is old and starting to fall apart. You're **convinced** you need a new bike to win the race.

Then something crazy happens. You're in the public park one day and spot something. When you check it out, you discover it's a wad of cash that totals \$100. You can't believe it. With what you have saved already, it's enough to help you buy a new bike. Your troubles are over! Or so you think.

Pretty soon you begin to feel guilty. You think maybe you should tell someone. You start to imagine how unhappy the person who lost the money must be. You really want the new bike. Now you have enough money to buy it. What would you do? Would you try to give it back or would you keep it?

## FINDERS KEEPS, LOSERS WEEPERS!



Take the money and run!

Anyone irresponsible enough to lose all that money doesn't deserve it. Or, they're so rich, they don't care. There is even a third

possibility that someone left it there on purpose for YOU TO FIND!

This is a dog-eat-dog world. You have to take what you can get. Sure it's sad that someone lost all that money, but it would be just as sad for you to have to give it back. The best thing to do is sit back and enjoy your good luck. And besides, how's that any different than the old saying "find a penny, pick it up, all day long you'll have good luck?" Whether you're picking up a penny or a hundred dollar bill, you're still picking up money off the ground that you found.

Debate.Org published this same debatable issue on their website in January and the results showed that 70% of adults agreed that your good fortune belongs in your pocket. One person commented on the website saying "Realistically, the person that lost it at a public park cannot prove that they were ever in possession of the money so there is no way for them to get it back." If it were that easy to get \$100, wouldn't everyone say that they dropped money somewhere?



**Giving the money back is the only thing to do!** Everyone could use a little extra cash. And it would be tempting to keep it. But if it's not yours, you should turn it over to the police.

Your parents would want to know where the money came from. You'd have to explain how you came across the money so quickly. Telling the truth might make them disappointed in your decision.

The money was never really yours so it shouldn't make you sad to return it. People have to work hard to earn the money they carry in their pockets. If you didn't earn that money yourself, then you shouldn't be the one spending it.



Many communities have local laws or ordinances governing what a person must do if he finds cash and does not know who it belongs to. These laws usually require that a person who finds money, especially

larger amounts (for example \$100 or more), turn it over to the local police. If no one claims it after a certain period of time, the police can then give it to the finder to keep. You should try to find the owner and only keep the money if you made a reasonable effort and couldn't locate the owner.

So Cooley students...**Which side are YOU on???**