

Exercise 1:

Use the following expressions to fill the blanks in the sentences below. You will need to change the verb tense and other words forms of some expressions.

Dirt poor Be in the red Work yourself to the bone Work smarter not harder Be in the black
 Get paid under the table Fake it till you make it Go from rags to riches Receive a windfall
 Skill up Cover your costs Be well off Be filthy rich

1. Shane gets paid in cash and doesn't pay his taxes, he _____.
2. I didn't work hard to get rich, instead I _____ when my uncle died and gave me all of his money.
3. We're earning a lot but spending even more than we earn, so we _____.
4. My poor cousin works seventy hours a week that pays her almost nothing./ That's terrible! She should get a different job so she doesn't have to _____.
5. Instead of working more hours, why don't you work at two online jobs at the same time? You really need to _____.
6. My great grandparents were _____ when they came to Canada, they had almost nothing, but they worked hard, started a business and became successful.
7. You don't need a master's degree to work in PR, you can just _____ and no one will know that you're not an expert.
8. He drives a Ferrari, has a huge house and buys whatever he wants without thinking how much it might cost. He's _____.
9. We're earning a lot and not spending much, we _____.
10. Jack Ma, the founder of Alibaba, was born poor but became one of the richest people in the world. He's an example of a person who _____.
11. You really need a master's degree in this industry to get a serious job and you only have a bachelor's. So you really need to _____!
12. We're not filthy rich, but we _____, we have a nice house and car and go on nice vacations.
13. The money that I earn is enough to _____, for example my rent, car payments, food and water.

Exercise 2:

There are two pairs of expressions (four expressions total) from Exercise 1 that have antonyms. Find these expressions and write them below.

1. Very poor = _____ ≠ very rich = _____
2. Be in debt = _____ ≠ make a profit = _____

Answer Key:

Exercise 1: 1. gets paid under the table 2. received a windfall 3. are in the red 4. work herself to the bone
 5. work harder not smarter 6. dirt poor 7. fake it till you make it 8. filthy rich 9. are in the black 10. went from rags to riches 11. skill up 12. are well off 13. cover my costs

Exercise 2: 1. dirt poor ≠ filthy rich 2. be in the red ≠ be in the black

