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**Dima:** Hello and welcome to this edition of 6 Minute English with me, Dima Kostenko

**Rebecca:** and me, Rebecca Byrne.

**Dima:** Rebecca is here to help us with the language today. Today we'll focus on words and phrases people use when talking about business and money as we hear about one small town's rather unusual attempt to protect itself from the global financial crisis. But first, a question for you Rebecca. Our key word for today is - currency. How would you describe what a currency actually is?

**Rebecca:** *Responds (money used in a particular country at a particular time; usually country-specific but there are exceptions, e.g. euro - and Hong Kong dollar...)*

**Dima:** Right, thanks Rebecca for this explanation. I am sure it will be useful to anyone who is travelling abroad, and in particular, those who might be planning a visit to Maleny, an old dairy farming town in Queensland, Australia.

**Rebecca:** *Responds/asks what's special about Maleny*

**Dima:** Maleny Rebecca is about to make history by introducing its own community currency. The so called Baroon Dollar, named after a nearby lake, will be sold to both residents and tourists at local shops, and despite the fact that the scheme won't come into force until August, over 100 companies have already signed up for it.

**Rebecca:** *Responds (another gimmick... Why? What for? What can it do that the official currency, Australian dollar, cannot do?)*

**Dima:** Well, if you listen to the scheme organisers, the idea is to counter the global economic downturn by supporting local businesses.

**Rebecca:** Hmm, a kind of stimulus package on a local scale?

**Dima:** Exactly, well put Rebecca. A stimulus package.

**Rebecca:** I suppose I could have simply said 'a measure, or a number of measures to help revive the economy'. Actually, I've got a couple of other things to gloss. The verb 'to counterfeit' meaning to make forged, illegal banknotes that look like real ones. And the phrase 'to build into', in other words to design and make something in such a way that a certain feature is included.

**Dima:** In a moment we'll hear from Darren Mitchell, a chief organiser behind the scheme. He says, like any proper currency, the Baroon Dollar will have a number of security features, and here comes your challenge for this week Rebecca. What do you think those security features are for?

a) to make the new banknotes look prettier

b) to make the Baroon Dollar a freely convertible international currency, or

c) to stop counterfeiting?

What do you think Rebecca?

**Rebecca:** *Answers*

**Dima:** We'll check your answer later but first let's hear from Darren Mitchell. See if you can spot 'to build into' and 'to counterfeit' in his words:

**Clip 1      0'10"**

We have built into the currency, the community currency, a number of security features that stop counterfeiting. So, we think we have done a fairly good job there.

**Rebecca:**      Darren Mitchell says the community currency has been designed in such a way as to include a number of security features.

**Dima:**            And did you manage to hear what those security features are for?

**Rebecca:**      They are to stop people from attempting to make forged, illegal notes - in short, to stop counterfeiting. *Which means I was right/not quite right when I made my guess earlier.*

**Dima:**            Listen to Darren Mitchell again and this time try to catch a commonly used verb which means to deal with, to act in response to (usually something unpleasant).

**Rebecca:**      And just to keep you on full alert, here are two more things to listen out for. First, the word 'hinterland' meaning land just beyond the coastal areas. And second, the expression 'to give an extra boost', which means to give more support, to stimulate new activities. Let's listen:

**Clip 2      0'13"**

We are, sort of, addressing the global financial crisis. We are creating a community currency - the first in Australia - across the Sunshine Coast hinterland region. It really gives businesses an extra boost.

**Dima:**            That was Darren Mitchell, the man behind Australia's first community currency. Rebecca, did you spot the verb which means to deal with, to act in response to?

**Rebecca:**      I think it was 'to address'.

**Dima:** That's absolutely right, Darren said, ' We are addressing the global financial crisis'. Well, what can I say, good luck to him and to everyone who'll be using the currency. And I'm afraid all *we* have time for in this programme is another quick look at some of today's vocabulary. Rebecca?

**Rebecca:** *Responds.* We began by defining **currency** - that is the money used in a particular country at a particular time. We discovered what **an economic stimulus package** is - a number of measures to help revive the economy. Then we had the verb **to counterfeit** meaning to make forged, illegal banknotes that look like real ones; and the phrase **to build into**, in other words to design and make something in such a way that a certain feature is included. In the second clip we heard the noun **hinterland** meaning land just beyond the coastal areas. Also, we challenged you to try and catch the verb **to address** which means to deal with, to act in response to something bad or urgent, and the expression **to give an extra boost**, which means to provide more support, to stimulate new activity.

**Dima:** Thanks Rebecca. Well, that's about all for today. Until next week.

**Both:** Goodbye!