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| **The Lifelong Pursuit of Collecting****Themed regalia, travel souvenirs, coins, stamps, rocks—collections come in all shapes and sizes. Collecting things can be an enjoyable hobby with underrated benefits.**Do you collect anything? Maybe you started a collection in your childhood, or perhaps you picked up the interest along the way. Collecting things is much more than a way to spend your money. There are emotional and social benefits to collecting that are often overlooked.**Collections bring people together.** In the digital age it’s getting easier and easier to meet and connect with people who have similar interests. Collections provide a real, tangible way to make friends who want to talk about recent additions, prized pieces, or the stories behind items in your collection. It’s also a great networking opportunity if you are looking to add items. Who knows—maybe you will spark an interest in someone while showing off your collection.**People feel a sense of pride when they collect.** As you gather all the pieces of a set, or as the designated space for your collection grows, you may feel a special sense of satisfaction. It’s hard to explain to those who aren’t collectors, but you’ll discover it quickly if you try it out.**There may be financial benefits to collecting.** Many things that people enjoy collecting—coins, items of historical significance, comic books, baseball cards, antiques, or Star Wars gear—are valuable. This is especially true if you have been collecting for a long time and some of your collection items are in limited supply or are hard to find. You may not dream of parting with your collection, but it’s nice to have the option if the price is right.**Anyone can collect.** Though many people collect over the span of several decades, there’s no rule about when you can start collecting. Thankfully, it’s also a hobby that doesn’t require a lot of skill or know-how, and you can start as small or as big as you want. If you’ve never started a collection before, what are you waiting for?**Make your memories and interests last.** Collecting things is just one way to turn money into a physical monument. A monument to the memories, experiences, interests, and quirks of the collector. As you add to your collection, I’d love to hear about it! We can talk about planning for that pricey addition, or creating the space you need for your collection.

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