

Reading Practice - eBay

Read the article on eBay below.

Have you heard of eBay? It is now a household name and one of the most popular Internet-based businesses. It was created by Pierre Omidyar in 1995 when he was working as a software engineer in California's Silicon Valley. Omidyar created this website for his girlfriend.



You can buy and sell almost anything on eBay. It has become a popular form of trading among people from all walks of life and of all ages. Anyone who wants to buy a product that has been put on sale has to make a bid for the product. All the bids are tracked and the highest bidder 'wins'. On the other hand, to sell an item, the seller has to log in to the website with a personal ID, give a description of the item and set the price. Then the bidding starts. When the item is sold, eBay takes a listing fee and a commission is based on the final selling price.

In spite of its popularity eBay has its advantages and disadvantages. It can be expensive. Its fees are high and can cut into your profits.

One of the best things about eBay is that you can list an item and, as long as your keywords are solid, your price fair and listing clear, it will sell even if you do nothing to market it. eBay's auctions are still the best place to sell rare items or items which you are not sure of its value because eBay has brand recognition.

Part A - Are the sentences True or False? PBD 3.1.2

1. Pierre Omidyar's girlfriend created eBay to sell her valuables. ()
2. eBay is an inconvenient way for people to buy and sell products. ()
3. To purchase an item you must be willing to pay more than others. ()
4. eBay is a very expensive way to sell your items. ()

5. When you want to buy an item on eBay you need to () call the seller.

6. eBay is the best way to sell uncommon items. ()

Part B – Fill in the table with an appropriate word or phrase from the text.

PBD 3.1.3

Meaning		Word / Phrase
1	something that everyone knows	
2	state a price	
3	a fee for doing something	
4	reduce	
5	not common	
6	reasonable	

Part B – Answer the questions below. Choose no more than five words and/or a number from the text for each answer. PBD 3.1.2

About eBay		
Created by	1	
Year created	2	
To buy a product, a buyer has to:	3	
To log in a seller needs	4	
Disadvantages of eBay	5	
	6	
Commission taken by eBay is based on	7	
eBay is the best place to sell because it has	8	