



## Shopping on the Internet

What is "shopping on the Internet"? It's shopping by computer. You locate a product on the Internet, then order it and at the same time pay for it by credit card.

In the US, 7% of families have already made at least one purchase by computer. They also say that sales on the Internet are doubling every 12 months.

The "Economist" magazine says that online shopping will increase in the future, like for example travel sales. Other areas that they think will increase are PC hardware, books, software and music. Perhaps these are obvious, but they also say that people will shop for groceries and clothing on the Internet.

Shopping on the Internet may increase, but I think that many people prefer doing the shopping in department stores, shops and supermarkets. They like to touch and feel many things, such as books and clothing, before buying them. Of course Internet shopping sites offer a great variety of products and you can shop from your home or office at any hour.

However there are some disadvantages of shopping by computer. The website can show photos of the products, but the shopper can't feel, smell, taste or try on products. It can also be difficult to find out when items will arrive.

Perhaps online shopping is coming, but I don't think that real world shops need to be worried. Internet is a good option for shopping, but I don't believe it will save much time! When surfing around the Internet in order to prepare this article, I was often tempted to follow up sites that looked (and, in many cases, were) fascinating – just like wandering through the shops!

*Consumers' Association of Victoria (abridged and adapted)*



locate (l.1) – encontrar, localizar  
order (l.2) – encomendar  
purchase (l.3) – compra  
sales (l.4) – vendas  
are doubling (l.4) – estão a duplicar  
increase (l.6) – aumentar  
touch (l.12) – tocar  
however (l.15) – contudo  
taste (l.16) – provar  
was tempted (l.21) – fui tentado  
wandering (l.22) – percorrer, andar por

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1 - Reread the text and say whether the following sentences are **TRUE** or **FALSE**:

- 1 - When you buy a product on the internet, you have to pay for it immediately.
- 2 - You can't use your credit card.
- 3 - Sales on the internet are increasing.
- 4 - People will buy different articles online.
- 5 - The author thinks people prefer doing the shopping online.
- 6 - There are no disadvantages to shopping by computer.


2 - **What do these words mean in the text?** Match the left-hand column with the right-hand column:

- |                             |                          |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 - hardware (l.8)          | <input type="checkbox"/> | a) clear   |
| 2 - software (l.8)          | <input type="checkbox"/> | b) large shops   |
| 3 - obvious (l.8)           | <input type="checkbox"/> | c) put on to see if they fit                               |
| 4 - groceries (l.9)         | <input type="checkbox"/> | d) the programmes, etc, used to operate a computer         |
| 5 - department store (l.11) | <input type="checkbox"/> | e) the machinery and electronic parts of a computer system |
| 6 - feel (l.16)             | <input type="checkbox"/> | f) food and other goods                                    |
| 7 - try on (l.17)           | <input type="checkbox"/> | g) touch   |

3 - **Answer the following questions** on the text. Give complete answers:

1 - What products can you buy on the internet?

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2 - Why do so many people prefer doing the shopping in "real world shops"?

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3 - What are the advantages of online shopping?

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4 - What are the disadvantages of online shopping?

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5 - Why doesn't the author think online shopping will save a lot of time?

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6 - Which is your favourite place to shop online? Choose the option that applies to you and justify your choice:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yahoo Shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amazon.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	eBay.com
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shopping.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	PriceGrabber.com	<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't shop online

Justification of your choice:

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