

Reading 'Shop till you drop'

1 Read the questions and the text. For each question, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

1 According to the author,

- A** everyone enjoys looking for bargains.
- B** none of us can avoid shopping completely.
- C** people go to shopping centres to save time.
- D** shopping centres are great places to meet new people.

2 According to the author, some shoppers don't like

- A** spending time travelling to shops.
- B** having items delivered to their home.
- C** using a credit card to pay for their shopping.
- D** going to the cinema in a shopping centre.

3 One disadvantage of shopping online which the author mentions is that

- A** it's not always safe to pay by credit card.
- B** it can take weeks to find the item you want.
- C** searching the internet can be very difficult.
- D** it's inconvenient to return items you don't like.

4 What does the author say about shopping by phone?

- A** They always deliver good quality products.
- B** You don't usually pay by credit card.
- C** Supermarket staff are always extremely helpful.
- D** The shop sometimes has to make decisions for you.

5 In the author's opinion,

- A** it's nice to have a friendly relationship with shopkeepers.
- B** modern methods of shopping won't affect small shops.
- C** small shops will get more business as their owners are friendly.
- D** shopping is a very enjoyable and relaxing activity.

Shop till you drop

Whether it's buying something to cook for dinner, choosing some new clothes or picking up a gift for a friend's birthday, we all have to shop. Nowadays most people are so busy that they don't want to spend a lot of time shopping. Fortunately, there is a variety of shopping options, something to meet everyone's needs.

For some people, shopping is a pleasant experience, a chance to meet a friend and spend the day going from shop to shop in one of the new, modern, shopping centres. They enjoy looking for bargains, especially in shops that sell brand names. They don't mind trying on lots of different clothes – it all adds to the enjoyment of the day. After a hard day's shopping, they'll often see a film at one of the cinemas at the shopping centre, or have dinner at one of the many restaurants there.

Other people prefer shopping quickly and easily from their own home by shopping online. All they have to do is search the internet for the item they want to buy, read about it and place an order for it, using a credit card. It's fast, easy and convenient. Of course, you have to wait for the item to be delivered to your home, which can take from two days to two weeks and, if you don't like the item when you get it, you'll have to pack it up and return it to the company. There's no time wasted travelling to and from a shopping centre, no searching for the item you want, and no trying on.

Many shops also accept orders placed by phone. You can call your local supermarket, for example, and give them a list of the items you want to buy. One of their staff will gather all the items you want, charge them to your credit card, and deliver them to your home. Of course, you'll still have to put everything away once it's delivered, and you may not be happy with the quality of fresh fruit and vegetables they've selected for you, but it does save you a lot of time.

So there are many ways a busy modern person can shop. No matter which method you choose, it seems the end of the small family-owned shop cannot be far away. Personally, even though I don't enjoy shopping, I do like having a chat with my neighbourhood shopkeepers.