

Pre Intermediate File 4 READING TEST

1 Read the article and tick (✓) the right option.

The best shopping cities

Which are the best cities to shop in? Writer, Ellie Clare, has been to five cities around the world to find out. This week, she writes about Paris. I went to Paris in June. It's a lovely city for sightseeing

at that time of year, but it's also a great place to find high-quality fashion. I started in the boutiques and visited all the top names, including Cartier, Chanel, Christian Dior, and Yves Saint Laurent. I've never seen such beautiful things, but they are, of course, expensive. I bought some perfume and moved on to the huge department stores of Paris. Two of the most famous are Printemps and Galeries Lafayette and they are definitely good places to visit. One place I found disappointing was The Champs-Élysées. In the old days, it was a great place for fashion, but now there are too many fast-food restaurants, banks, airline offices, shopping centres, and cinemas aimed at tourists.

Don't waste your time there!

After the shops, I tried the markets. One of the most famous places to find treasures in Paris is the flea market. There are three main flea markets and they are situated around the old gates of the city. I spent hours walking around these fascinating places and while I was there, I discovered the meaning of the name flea market. Hundreds of years ago, the royal family gave away their old clothes, but they were full of little insects – fleas, of course! One stall holder told me that the best time to find treasures at the market is before the crowds arrive, usually between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. But that was a bit early for me. I was enjoying Paris night life too much! There are also open-air markets all around the city where you can buy flowers, clothes, pets, food, and many other things. And if you want to buy a book, visit the rows of bookstalls along the River Seine. You can find some great bargains there, or you can spend hours just looking.

If you want to buy half of Paris or if you just want to walk around and look, you'll love the experience. Paris is a great place to shop!

1 Ellie went sightseeing in Paris.

True False Doesn't say

2 She didn't buy anything in the boutiques.

True False Doesn't say

3 She went to some department stores in the city.

True False Doesn't say

4 She recommends the department stores.

True False Doesn't say

5 She thinks the Champs-Élysées isn't as good as it was.

True False Doesn't say

6 She had something to eat on the Champs-Élysées.

True False Doesn't say

7 She bought something near the old gates of the city.

True False Doesn't say

8 You can buy flowers at the flea market.

True False Doesn't say

9 Ellie visited the flea markets early in the morning.

True False Doesn't say

10 It's possible to spend a lot of time looking at books.

True False Doesn't say

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

1 What two things does Ellie like most about Paris in June?

2 Why didn't Ellie buy more things in the boutiques?

3 What could you find at the Champs-Élysées before?

4 Why is it a good idea to visit the flea markets early?

5 What did Ellie do in the evenings?

WRITING

Describe a place you have visited. Answer the questions.

1 Where is it?

2 How often have you been there?

3 What can you see there?

4 What can you do there?

5 What are the best / worst things about the place?