TASK 2

Read the text and complete the chart below with a word from the list

ACTIVITIES	EXPERTS	GETTING	TIME
EASE	PASSING	POINTING	DEBT
ONLY	SHOWED	STUDY	MASKING
RISE	BY	COMFORTING	RESEARCH
~~BEYOND~~		INCREDIBLY	TRYING
		REACHING	

ONE WOMAN IN FIVE IS A SHOPAHOLIC

Easy credit and peer pressure push millions to buy (0) _____ their means, causing spiral of depression.

Posh and Becks do it together. Liz Hurley does it alone and Madonna did it while nine months pregnant.

Retail therapy has become one of Britain's most pleasurable leisure (1) _____. But the percentage of the population suffering from the serious medical condition of shopping addiction is (2) _____ crisis point, overtaking the number of drug and drink addicts in the UK combined.

Experts believe 10 per cent of the population, and possibly 20 per cent of women, are manic, compulsive shoppers. Most shopaholics are seriously in (3) _____ and the condition has led to family breakups, depression, homelessness and even suicide.

Known as omniomania, the condition has been known to psychiatrists since the early 1900s but (4) _____ now is it almost on an epidemic scale. A European Union report recently revealed that up to half of 14 to 18-year-old girls in Scotland, Italy and Spain (5) _____ symptoms of shopping addiction.

Jim Goudie, a consumer psychologist at Northumbria University, said the stigma of being a shopaholic, and the fact that so few people take the condition seriously, may be (6) _____ an even higher number of sufferers.

"Our figures would correlate to (7) _____ carried out in the US showing a similar percentage of the population there suffering from shopping problems. But with some people feeling that being a shopping addict is so (8) _____ silly, the true statistics could be much higher.

'One of the reasons behind this sudden (9) _____ could be that shopping has never been so attractive. Shopping centres are beautiful these days, absolute wonderlands. Store cards are offered at the till and people can obtain handfuls of credit cards with relative (10) _____."

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