- The money teenagers have and how they spend it

2 Match headings A–F to paragraphs 1–4. There are two headings that you do not need.

A How do businesses attract teenagers?
B Do teenagers have problems with debt?
C Do teenagers spend more time shopping than studying?
D What do teenagers spend their money on?
E Why do people like free things?
F Where does the money come from?

3 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

1 Big businesses are interested in teenager consumers.
2 Girls spend more money on their looks than boys.
3 Boys usually buy the most expensive computer games.
4 Girls and boys are into spending money on socializing.
5 All British teenagers work at the weekends.
6 Companies advertise by giving away free gifts to teenagers.
7 A lot of teenagers have credit cards.
8 A lot of teenagers have parents who work in a bank.

4 Match the highlighted words in the text to definitions 1–9.

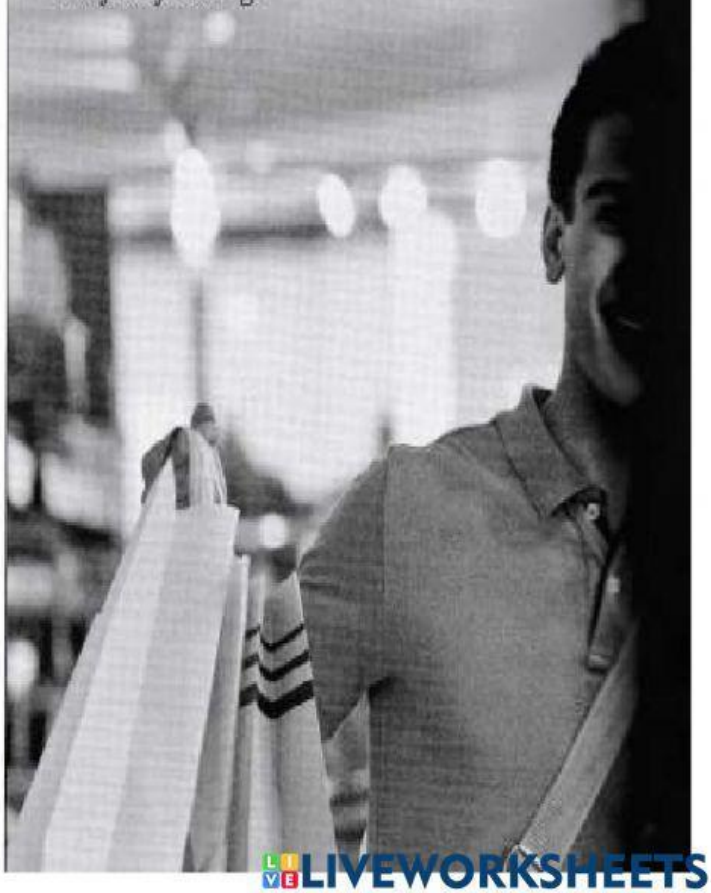
1 (verb) to keep money so it can be used later
save
2 (verb) communicate
3 (noun) an amount of money to buy what you want
4 (noun) famous names or labels that are linked to certain products
5 (noun) where your money is kept in a bank
6 (verb) ask someone to an event or to do something with you
7 (noun) products you put on your face
8 (noun) a group of people in business who sell things
9 (verb) to use something more than you need to

£ pound

Like teenagers everywhere, British teenagers like to spend money on things they want and the things big companies want to sell them!

1

5 Girls are usually more interested in their appearance than boys, so they often buy clothes and make-up, such as lipstick and mascara. Boys usually spend their money on home entertainment (such as the most popular
10 computer game) and gadgets. All teens spend money on their social lives. This isn't only the money they use on activities like going to the cinema. It's also the money they spend on the latest smartphones, so they can keep in touch
15 with friends. It's probably cheaper than going out and it's important to know what everybody's doing!



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2 .....

Teenagers can have many different ways of getting money. Some teenagers' parents give them an allowance, often every week or month. Their family sometimes give them money on their birthdays or on special occasions like Christmas. Some British teens also have weekend jobs in cafés or shops. Banks encourage teenagers to open an account and save money, and many teenagers do.

3 .....

Big brand names spend millions on advertising to teenagers. Many companies give away things for 'free', such as texts, downloads, drinks, food, or even clothes. Others invite teenagers to follow them on a social-networking site.

4 .....

Not really. Most teenagers use cash. They're too young to have a credit card (and when they are the right age, they often don't want one). So teenagers don't have problems with debt like some adults. But, like most people, teenagers can sometimes waste money on things they don't really need or spend too much. However, when that happens, they usually go to The Bank of Mum and Dad – they ask their parents for more money!

5 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in exercise 4.

1 My sister doesn't use much ....make-up.... She prefers to look natural.
2 Let's ..... everybody in our class to the party!
3 I've got a bank ..... because I don't want to keep all my money at home.
4 Jason's parents give him an ..... of £10 a week.
5 I want a new bike, so I need to ..... some money. I'm not spending money on things I don't need at the moment.
6 Mum works for a small ..... that makes and sells accessories.
7 Alex doesn't spend his money in a clever way. He ..... all his money on gadgets and games that he doesn't need.
8 My cousin lives in the USA, so we ..... by email.
9 Famous ..... usually cost a lot of money. I don't buy them because most of the money pays for the name, not the product.

6 Answer the questions.

1 Do you think teenagers spend too much money on unimportant things? Why / why not?

.....

2 What do teenagers in your country spend most of their money on?

.....

3 What type of adverts do you like and dislike? Why?

.....

4 Do you think adverts are useful? Why / why not?

.....

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