

DIFFERENT WAYS OF SHOPPING

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Reading Text

Shopping is an important part of everyday life. People shop for food, clothes, electronic devices, gifts, and many other things. However, the way people shop has changed greatly over time. In Oman, shoppers can choose from traditional old markets, modern shopping malls, and online stores. Each method offers different experiences, and people may choose one depending on their needs, time, budget, and personal preferences.

One traditional way of shopping is visiting **old markets, or souqs**. These markets are an important part of Omani culture and history. Places such as Mutrah Souq in Muscat attract both local people and tourists. Shoppers can find traditional clothes, perfumes, spices, jewellery, handicrafts, and souvenirs. Many people prefer old markets because they offer a unique atmosphere and allow customers to communicate directly with sellers. Shoppers can also learn more about Omani traditions and support local businesses. For some people, shopping in a souq is not only about buying something; it is also a cultural experience.

Another popular way of shopping is visiting **modern shopping malls**. Malls provide a comfortable and organised environment where people can find many different shops in one place. They usually have clothing stores, supermarkets, electronics shops, restaurants, cafés, and entertainment areas. In Oman, malls are especially attractive because they provide an air-conditioned place to shop, particularly during hot weather. Families and friends can spend several hours shopping, eating, and enjoying activities together. Malls are therefore convenient for people who want variety and entertainment in the same place.

In recent years, **online shopping** has become increasingly popular. People can use websites and mobile applications to buy products without leaving their homes. Online shopping is convenient because customers can compare prices, read reviews, and order products at any time. It is particularly useful

for busy people or those who live far from large shopping centres. However, customers should shop carefully by using reliable websites and checking product information before making a purchase.

In conclusion, old markets, shopping malls, and online stores each have their own advantages. Old markets provide cultural experiences and personal communication, while malls offer variety, comfort, and entertainment. Online shopping saves time and provides easy access to a wide range of products. Therefore, there is no single best way to shop. The best choice depends on what people need and what kind of shopping experience they prefer. In Oman, these different methods can continue to exist together, giving shoppers more choices and opportunities.

Reading Comprehension

Complete each sentence. Choose the best answer.

1. For a taste of Omani culture, shoppers may choose a _____.
 - A. mall
 - B. souq
 - C. website
2. A family wanting shopping and fun may find a mall _____.
 - A. convenient
 - B. traditional
 - C. distant
3. A tourist may visit a souq to discover local _____.
 - A. applications
 - B. reviews
 - C. traditions

4. A busy shopper may choose online shopping to save _____.
A. time
B. souvenirs
C. space
5. On a hot Omani day, a mall can provide a _____ place to shop.
A. traditional
B. comfortable
C. crowded
6. Before ordering online, smart shoppers should check _____.
A. the weather
B. the sellers' location
C. product information
7. Someone who enjoys shopping with friends may prefer a mall for its _____.
A. leisure activities
B. home delivery
C. traditional products
8. The best shopping method depends on shoppers' _____.
A. location
B. needs
C. souvenirs