Class 1: Panic buying sparks toilet paper shortages

LISTENING: Listen and decide whether these sentences are True or False.

1. Shoppers in every world country are panic buying.
2. People are panic buying sanitiser but not food.
3. Governments said there is no need to panic buy.
4. Video of people fighting in an Australian supermarket is on social media.
5. FOMO means fear of missing out.
6. The psychologist said people are underestimating the risk of COVID-19.
7. Singapore's leader said the country has plenty of supplies.

VOCABULARY MATCH: Match the words to their definition.

1. Go viral
2. Stock up
3. Sanitiser
4. Irrational
5. In bulk
6. Herd mentality

a. A behavior in which many, many people follow the actions of the group to which they belong.
b. Very large quantities.
c. Not logical or reasonable.
d. Spreading very, very quickly over the Internet.
e. Buy many things and keep them for later use (especially in an emergency)
f. A liquid that makes things clean and hygienic.

READING: Now read the text and check your answers.



Shoppers are panic buying over fears of the coronavirus. People worldwide are emptying supermarket shelves of toilet paper, face masks, sanitiser and food. Governments told people there is no need to "panic buy". Panic buying reduces the supply of products needed by medical staff. This could worsen the problems the COVID-19 virus is causing. Videos of shoppers in Australia fighting over a pack of toilet roll in a supermarket have gone viral across social media.

A psychologist said panic buying is an "irrational" behaviour. It is part of the FOMO condition - the fear of missing out. There is a "herd mentality" that makes people copy each other. People see others buy in bulk and they rush to the stores to do the same. People are overestimating the risk of dying from the coronavirus. More people die in car accidents but we don't panic about this when we go to work. Singapore's prime minister said: "We have ample supplies. There's no need to stock up."

READING COMPREHENSION: Read the text again and answer the questions.

1. What kind of food are people panic buying?
2. Who said there was no need to panic buy?
3. What kind of mentality did a psychologist say people were exhibiting?
4. Who said his country had ample supplies?

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