

1- READING COMPREHENSION (...../12)**A simpler life – by Mark Watson**

Last year, I remember feeling unhappy on Black Friday. That's the day in November when retailers try to make us spend as much money as possible. Months before Black Friday, I began receiving loads of emails and brochures with advertisements for products and services. When I didn't buy them, they started sending me special offers. Worried that I would miss such great bargains, I bought the products even if I didn't want or need them. As my bank balance got lower and my email box fuller, I realized

I was miserable and in danger of having no money left.

That was when I decided to make a change and to only buy things that I actually needed. I quickly realized that I only needed to spend money on food and transport – the basics! I began to see that I didn't really use a lot of what I already had. Not only was my wardrobe full of clothes and shoes from famous brands, still with the labels on, but my shelves were full of must-have gadgets I had never used. I returned all the items that I had receipts for and gave away what I didn't really need.

I couldn't believe how much larger my bedroom looked! So much so, I'm going to move to my brother's smaller room. He needs the space because he has more stuff. With all the money I have saved, I can afford to go on holiday. That's much more fun! I can even start to save for driving lessons. The best thing is that the retailers and their marketing companies no longer have power over me. I decide what I need to buy now!

What's "Black Friday"?

What had he received before last year Black Friday?

Why did he buy useless things?

Did he change his mind about Black Friday? What did he do?

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Why is he going to move to his brother's bedroom?

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How has his life changed since last Black Friday?

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2- **LI**STENING COMPREHENSION. (*English Plus 2nd Ed sts book Track 1.17*)

1.17 Listen to two students talking about career choices. Write *true* or *false*.

- 1 Sam has made up his mind what to study next year.
- 2 Mary has decided to take a year off between school and university.
- 3 Sam's dad works as a speech therapist at a hospital.
- 4 Mary is considering becoming a lawyer.
- 5 Sam has already seen a careers officer.
- 6 Sam decides to look at a list of career options first.

