

LISTENING & READING PRACTICE

023 You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about events and services related to money.

Task 1

For questions 1–5, choose from the list (A–H) the purpose of each event or service.

Speaker 1 1 _____
Speaker 2 2 _____
Speaker 3 3 _____
Speaker 4 4 _____
Speaker 5 5 _____

Task 2

For questions 6–10, choose from the list (A–H) how each speaker feels about the event or services he or she describes.

While you listen you must complete both tasks.

Speaker 1 6 _____
Speaker 2 7 _____
Speaker 3 8 _____
Speaker 4 9 _____
Speaker 5 10 _____

A to collect useful data about shopping habits
B to make money from unwanted items
C to publicise its benefits for the young
D to give assistance to those who are less fortunate
E to get their business noticed
F to increase understanding of personal finance
G to encourage people to shop locally
H to help the environment through recycling

A curious about how it made money
B convinced it should be banned
C confident it would be enjoyable
D confused about what it is for
E doubtful of consumer benefits
F interested in how it differs from similar events
G annoyed that they wasted money on it
H disapproving of its appropriacy

You are going to read six reviews of digital finance apps. For questions 1–10, choose from the reviews (A–F). The reviews may be chosen more than once.

Which app

1 claims to be particularly useful for those with little experience of financial investment?
2 can assist someone whose debts have involved them in a legal process?
3 can be programmed to provide information you have requested as soon as it is available?
4 requires users to buy a piece of equipment to use alongside the app?
5 can give you advance notice of anticipated future prices?
6 enables you to benefit financially from expert opinion?
7 generates information for people working in a particular industry?
8 claims to be of particular value to people who are extravagant?
9 has expanded rapidly into a worldwide market?
10 provides information specific to wherever you happen to be?

A Landrock

Endorsed by no less than the Chief Financial Officer of a major international bank, this free app is described by its creators as a 'financial champion', meaning that it puts customers' needs first and gives them tailor-made guidance on taking control of their money. Landrock tracks your spending and identifies wasteful behaviour, such as paying for subscriptions you don't use and paying more than you need to for utilities. This app is the ideal investment if you tend to squander your hard-earned cash and regularly get into debt before payday, as it comes up with practical ways of reducing unnecessary expenditure. You can also set up a savings account within the app for all the money you will save!

B Jeremiah

Jeremiah was developed five years ago in response to the knowledge that one third of food is wasted. Jeremiah combines a tablet app, which identifies the type of food being binned, and an electronic scale to work out the value of the food wasted. This awareness prompts chefs and other senior staff in professional kitchens to reconsider their production methods and reduce waste. In the first couple of years, one restaurant, Carlota's, saved over £4000 in a month, and more than 150 kitchens cut the amount of food wasted by half.

C Willow

This award-winning app aims to help users reduce expenditure by drawing their attention to the best offers and discounts around. Willow covers all your needs from food, clothes and beauty products to flights, hotels and car rentals. All the best deals around your current location are displayed on a map, making it easy to avoid getting ripped off. You also have access to a huge number of coupons, online codes and cashback offers, and you can set up alerts based on products you are currently interested in. There is also a useful section on relevant consumer law as it might affect you.

D CrystalGro

CrystalGro is a great app for those who want their money to grow but don't know where to start. You link the app to your debit and credit cards, and when you make a purchase, it rounds up the amount and puts the difference in index funds recommended by Brandon Carter, the international prize winning economist. To make it work best for you, you need to keep spending, but it's easy to 'set it and forget it', so that you are automatically growing your money. CrystalGro charges a fee but as long as your account is active, you'll be quids in!

E Sparrowhawk

With over 30 million apps installed, Sparrowhawk is a super popular way to save money on travel and holidays. This app monitors the cost of millions of worldwide flights daily so that it is able to predict likely changes. Type in your home city, chosen holiday destination and the range of dates you are interested in, and you can receive clear information on how much your journey is likely to set you back at any time throughout the year. It's invaluable if you have flexibility in your travel requirements and means you're no longer at the mercy of the enormous fluctuations in the travel industry that you would otherwise suffer from.

F Betony

Betony is aimed at anyone who wants to save money, but it has been of particular benefit to those recovering from bankruptcy. Once your bank account is linked to the app, it checks your spending and transfers what you can safely afford to your Betony account. Betony guarantees that you will not go overdrawn while using the app, giving you peace of mind while you budget and save. By using this app, hotel manager Sylvia Reynolds saved over \$10,000 in two years, which she was then able to grow through careful investment. Use Betony free for three months and then a small fee applies. The popularity of the app has rocketed, and it is now being used across the globe, making an estimated total saving of \$25 million a year.