

READING COMPREHENSION - CLOZE

Read the text and fill in each gap with ONE suitable word from the list supplied. Each word can be used only once. There are THREE words you will not need. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Christmas Shopping

Complaining that holiday shopping has (0) become too time-consuming, too costly, and too stressful has become almost a holiday tradition in (1)____. But in his book *I Want That!* author Thomas Hine (2)____ that shopping is part of what gives the season its meaning.



Thomas Hine has written extensively about shopping over the years, and he has found that the subject (3)____ people uncomfortable. They don't like to (4)____ that they enjoy browsing in stores or acquiring new things. But he believes most people have an innate (5)____ to shop. "It's really a way of trying on identities and helping us (6)____ out who we are," he theorises.

"Shopping (7)____ to be one truly international subject because it (8)____ relate to a kind of freedom that's very important in Western society, and especially in American society, (9)____ is the freedom to invent yourself. And from the very beginnings of the human species people have been using objects both to symbolise and also to (10)____ their power over the world and over other people," Mr. Hine says.

From the first informal (11)____ of prehistoric goods to the thriving markets of ancient Greece, shopping has always existed in some form. But Thomas Hine believes the European roots of today's shops, department stores and malls date back (12)____ 500 years, to the Renaissance.

"You had a number of powerful cities where there were royal or ducal (13)____ or institutions like the Vatican. And shop districts grew out of people who made clothing, armour, hats, boots - all the things that were necessary for people to present (14)____ in these institutions," says Mr. Hine. "(15)____ the beginnings of industrialization started, more and more people were able to (16)____ items that previously only very powerful people were able to have. Storekeepers started mounting (17)____ in their windows and, suddenly, in the late 18th century, we find the new phenomenon of the window shopper, going around seeing (18)____ is available"

And what about Christmas shopping? "Gift giving is one of the most ancient of human activities, and the reason why Christmas is so stressful is that it really (19)____ us to look at the relationships in our lives, to see who we care about, and how we want to (20)____ those relationships in something we can buy at the store," Mr. Hine states.

ACQUIRE	BECOME	DOES	FORCES	NEED	SOME
ADMIT	BEFORE	EMBODY	ITSELF	ONCE	THEMSELVES
ARGUES	COURTS	EXCHANGE	LEAD	REGRET	WHAT
ASSERT	DISPLAYS	FIGURE	MAKES	SEEMS	WHICH