

- **to splash out** (verb) – *to spend a lot of money on something.*
- **to shop till you drop** (verb) – *to do a large amount of shopping.*
- **to keep up with the Joneses** (verb) – *to envy what others have and to use their possessions as a social benchmark for one's own status.*

**1. Consumerism Vocabulary**

- **guilty pleasure** (noun) – *something that one enjoys despite knowing that it is considered bad or unhealthy (such as a film, music or food).*
- **status symbol** (noun) – *a possession which shows a person's status or wealth.*
- **consumer rights** (noun) – *legal protection given to people who purchase goods or services from businesses.*

1. Your  give you four weeks to return any product you are not happy with to the shop you bought it from for a full refund.
2. My husband is always trying to ; last week he bought a new lawnmower because he saw the neighbour had one.
3. There is no greater  than a four-wheel drive vehicle.
4. New York was fantastic! We went to Fifth Avenue and we !
5. My  is Ben & Jerry's ice-cream.
6. He spends money like it's going out of fashion; last month he even  on a new Audi!

## Multiple choice



## America's Dopamine-Fueled Shopping Addiction

## Sentence completion

5. The average American buys \_\_\_\_\_ items of clothing per year.
6. Despite costing less than in the past, Americans now spend more money on \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Nine out of 10 people never or rarely \_\_\_\_\_ online purchases.
8. A lot of what we buy just becomes clutter in our ever-expanding \_\_\_\_\_.

## Short answer

9. What percentage of discarded plastic is recycled?
10. By how many people will the global middle class have grown in 20 years?
11. In the movie Wall-E, humans had to leave the planet because they had filled it with so much what?
12. Nearly 100% of fabrics could be what?

## Consumerism Conversation Questions

1. Would you ever buy second-hand \_\_\_\_\_? Why or why not?
2. How does consumerism affect \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?
3. How has consumerism changed since \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Does consumerism affect \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ differently? Who are the most consumerist?
5. Has consumerism made our society \_\_\_\_\_? Why?
6. Is consumerism necessary for a \_\_\_\_\_? Why or why not?
7. If the world economy is based on consumerism, does that mean we will always live in a \_\_\_\_\_ society? Why or why not?
8. Do you think it could be possible to create a society that was free of \_\_\_\_\_? How?