

Consumerism Vocabulary

- **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.*
- **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

1. Due to lower costs and the ease of buying, people buy things without...
a) thinking b) checking their bank account c) consideration for the environment
2. How does dopamine make you feel?
a) sad b) energetic c) happy
3. When do online shoppers get their second dopamine hit?
a) when they click buy b) when their purchase arrives c) when they use their purchase
4. The desire to buy more stuff comes from the evolutionary process of what?
a) reproduction b) survival c) intelligence

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?