

READING COMPREHENSION ACTIVITY: SHOPPING EXPERIENCES



On my last business trip, I wanted to buy a handmade rug. So I went to a store that had some really nice stuff. I found a beautiful one, but the asking price was too high: US \$900. I'm not very good at bargaining, but I figured it couldn't hurt to ask. So I said, "I can go as high as \$350." We bargained for a long time, but the merchant didn't come down in price. Finally, we shook hands, and I turned to leave the store. The merchant was very surprised, and he stopped me. I thought the handshake meant "Sorry, that's too low." But it really meant "It's a deal." So I bought it for \$350.



When I was on vacation, I decided to look for an antique vase. I found a beautiful blue and white one from the sixteenth century. I bargained with the salesperson about the price, and she came down for me. I was almost out of cash, but I bought it. It was a bit more than I wanted to spend, but I really liked it. Later, a friend told me that the "antiques" in these shops aren't really antiques—they're actually new! I guess I paid too much, but it's still a nice souvenir of my trip.

1. What did the man want to buy on the business trip?

- A. A painting
- B. A handmade rug
- C. An antique vase
- D. A new suit

2. How much did the man offer to pay for the handmade rug initially?

- A. \$500
- B. \$350
- C. \$900
- D. \$800

3. Why was the merchant surprised when the man turned to leave the store?

- A. The merchant thought the handshake meant the deal was done.
- B. The merchant wanted to sell the rug for a higher price.
- C. The merchant didn't expect the narrator to bargain.
- D. The merchant wanted to keep the rug.

4. What did the woman buy during their vacation?

- A. A new shirt
- B. An antique lamp
- C. An antique vase
- D. A souvenir keychain

5. How did the woman feel about the price they paid for the vase?

- A. They were happy with the price.
- B. They felt they paid too much.
- C. They thought the price was just right.
- D. They didn't care about the price.

6. What did the woman's friend tell them about the "antique" vase?

- A. It was a real antique from the 16th century.
- B. It was a fake antique, not a real one.
- C. It was a very valuable antique vase.
- D. It was a cheap, new vase.

7. Why did the woman buy the vase, even though they thought it was expensive?

- A. They needed a souvenir from their trip.
- B. They were trying to find a good bargain.
- C. They really liked the look of the vase.
- D. They wanted to start an antique collection.

8. How did the woman feel after learning the vase was not actually an antique?

- A. They were very happy with their purchase.
- B. They felt they had been tricked.
- C. They didn't care, as long as they liked the vase.
- D. They decided to return the vase.