Unit 3 – Reading Practice

Retail wonders in Lisbon

You may not think of Lisbon as a top shopping destination, but think again. There are so many interesting and unusual shops in Lisbon it's difficult to choose which to write about in my blog.

Bookshops, old and new

Let's start with bookshops. Lisbon is full of bookshops. The Portuguese love reading! The oldest in the world, Livraria Bertrand, is here. It opened in 1732, was destroyed in the earthquake in 1755, moved to another building, and has now been in the same place in downtown Lisbon since 1773. The Bertrand has had many different owners over the centuries and today it is a chain with over fifty bookshops in Portugal and Spain.
Less traditional and much newer is Livraria Ler Devagar, which translates as 'The Read Slowly Bookshop'. It opened in 1999 and people say it's one of the most beautiful bookshops in the world. It's full of books from floor to ceiling, and there are two cafés where you can sit and relax, meet friends or just read a book. It also puts on cultural events, including exhibitions, concerts and plays. It's much more than just a place to buy books.

Independent pop-ups

If bookshops aren't for you, try something quite different. Go to Embaixada ('Embassy' in English), where you can find original Portuguese design. It first opened in 2013 and is like a small shopping mall or department store in a beautiful, nineteenth-century palace. Each room in the palace has an independent pop-up boutique with different Portuguese brands and designs, including fashion, jewellery, cosmetics and interior design. There is also a café and a restaurant with a garden terrace.

From the new to the very old

If you love open-air markets, go to Feira da Ladra. This is a flea market like Portobello Market in London or Marché aux Puces de St-Ouen in Paris. Open twice a week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, it is the place to go to find second-hand clothes and antiques, coins, stamps and almost anything else you can think of. Over 800 years old, it's one of the oldest flea markets in Europe.

1 Read the blog post and tick the correct column.

		Livraria Bertrand	Livraria Ler Devagar	Embaixada	Feira da Ladra
1	It opened in 2013.				
2	It opened in 1999.				
3	It's more than 800 years old.				
4	It is part of a chain.				
5	You can find Portuguese brands here.				
6	You can buy used clothes here.				

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2 Read the blog post again and choose the correct option in italics.

1 The author didn't find it *easy* / *difficult* to choose which shops to write about.

2 Livraria Bertrand is *in the centre of* / *near* Lisbon.

3 Livraria Bertrand *is* / *isn't* in its original building.

4 There are *few* / *many* bookshops called Bertrand in Spain and Portugal.

5 The pop-up shops in Embaixada *are* / *aren't* part of a chain.

6 The *newest* / *oldest* store described in the blog post is Embaixada.

7 Feira da Ladra is open *two* / *three* days a week.

8 There *is a huge* / *isn't much* variety of goods to buy in Feira da Ladra.

3 How does the author of the blog post feel about Lisbon?

a She thinks it's a strange place.

b She doesn't think it's a good shopping destination.

c She's very positive about it.

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