

FCE Reading Part 7 – Shopping Habits

You are going to read four people talking about their shopping habits. For questions 1–10, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

A. Mia

For me, shopping is not just about buying things, it's about the *experience*. I love walking through stores, touching the fabrics, smelling perfumes, and discovering new styles. Even when I don't buy anything, I enjoy looking. It feels like a small adventure every time. Some of my friends find this strange because they prefer *online shopping*. They say it's faster and easier, but for me, it's not the same. I want to *see* what I'm buying, not just look at a photo on a screen. Once I ordered a sweater online, and it looked completely different in real life — the color was awful and the material was cheap. Since then, I only use online shops to compare prices, but I always go to the store to buy the real thing.

B. Leo

A few years ago, I used to spend money without thinking twice. Whenever I liked something, I bought it — clothes, headphones, snacks, anything. But one day I checked my *bank account*, and it was almost empty! That's when I decided to change. Now I'm careful. I look for *sales*, *discounts*, and *secondhand* items. Some people think shopping in secondhand stores is embarrassing, but I actually find it exciting. You never know what you'll discover — it's like a treasure hunt. Last week I bought a leather jacket that looked brand new, for half the price. I even keep all my *receipts* and check them at the end of the month to see how much I've spent. It's a fun challenge to save money while still getting nice things.

C. Sofia

Honestly, I think shopping is one of the most exhausting activities ever. Just imagining walking around a crowded supermarket or store makes me tired. My mom says shopping helps her relax, but for me it's the opposite. There's loud music, long lines, and way too many choices. I get frustrated because I can never decide what to buy. If I really need something, I prefer to order it online and avoid all the stress. I know it's not always perfect — once my bananas arrived completely brown, and another time my shoes were two different sizes! Still, I'd rather deal with that than spend hours in a store. Life's too short to waste it shopping.

D. Oliver

I enjoy shopping, but only when it's for *someone else*. I love finding the perfect gift that makes people smile. For me, a good present doesn't have to be expensive — it has to be meaningful. I spend time thinking about what the person really likes before I choose something. For example, last year I gave my best friend a handmade bracelet from a small local store. She loved it, and I felt proud for supporting a business that truly cares about quality and creativity. Big brands are everywhere, but small shops have personality. I guess that's what I value most when I go shopping: *connection*. Whether it's with the person I'm buying for, or with the people who made the product.

Which person...

1. prefers going to real stores instead of buying online? _____
2. finds shopping relaxing and enjoyable? _____
3. enjoys shopping for gifts more than for themselves? _____
4. has learned to control their spending habits? _____
5. dislikes shopping in any form? _____
6. says that supporting small stores is important to them? _____
7. mentions that online shopping can be disappointing? _____
8. treats saving money as a fun challenge? _____
9. thinks shopping is tiring and stressful? _____
10. compares shopping in secondhand stores to a treasure hunt? _____

