

1 Complete the email with the words in the box.

advert banknotes bargain bids goods
purchase sale

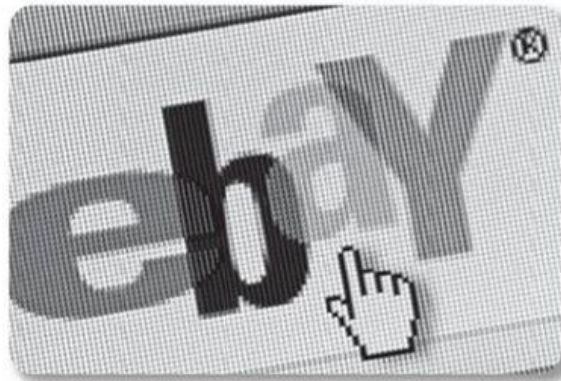
Hi Vicky

Guess what? I put my whole CD collection up for
¹_____ on an online auction site! I was really
surprised – I got lots of ²_____ in the first 24 hours
and the price reached over £300! Wow! But there are
nearly 200 CDs, so it's still a ³_____. I got the money
last week. I wanted cash, but you can't send ⁴_____
by post, so the money went into my dad's online account.
Three days later, I got a message saying the buyer didn't
want to ⁵_____ my CDs after all, and was returning
them because of their condition. According to my
⁶_____, the ⁷_____ were in excellent condition,
but he disagreed.

2 Read the text. Choose and write the best title.

- a The first eBay auction
- b An Internet addiction
- c A piece of my future
- d A maths genius

At the age of 19, an American student called Ron Steen decided to put a very unusual item up for sale on eBay: his own future. Or to be precise, 2% of his future earnings. He needed the money to pay for his university studies. This was



how he described the offer: 'After I complete my education, I plan on making at least 30 million dollars in my lifetime. When I meet my goal, you will make six times your original investment.'

Ron claimed the sale was a fantastic bargain because he was a very talented and intelligent person; he was certain to become a millionaire. But some people had doubts about the truth of his description. For example, he said his score in a national maths exam was 900. In fact, the exam was out of 800 – so perhaps his maths was not so good! And in the end, eBay decided that his auction was against the rules and stopped it. Ron's father lent him the money for university. However, the story about Ron Steen's auction appeared in the news on TV and the Internet all around the world. So perhaps he has a successful future in advertising!

3 Choose the best answers.

- 1 What did Ron Steen try to sell on eBay?
 - a ☐ 2% of everything he owned
 - b ☐ 2% of the money he planned to earn in the future
 - c ☐ his university qualification
 - d ☐ the chance to study at university
- 2 According to Ron Steen, why was it a bargain for the buyer?
 - a ☐ His future earnings were certain to be millions.
 - b ☐ He was happy to accept a low bid.
 - c ☐ The buyer only needed to pay 800–900 dollars.
 - d ☐ The buyer was certain to be on TV.
- 3 Why did some people question Ron's claims about his own abilities?
 - a ☐ They knew he was not an honest person.
 - b ☐ People always lie about their abilities.
 - c ☐ He made spelling mistakes in his description.
 - d ☐ He claimed to have a score in a maths exam that was not possible.
- 4 The auction did not take place because
 - a ☐ Ron decided he didn't want to sell his own future.
 - b ☐ the auction site decided not to allow it.
 - c ☐ the bids were not high enough.
 - d ☐ his father decided to lend him the money.
- 5 The story shows that Ron Steen
 - a ☐ is good at creating free advertising.
 - b ☐ is certain to do very well at university.
 - c ☐ is certain to appear in news reports for many years.
 - d ☐ has a future working for an Internet company.