

Exercise 6

Read the information. Then watch the video of the three native English speakers discussing online shopping. Choose the advantages and disadvantages of online shopping that the speakers mention. Be careful – the speakers will paraphrase some of the answers.

Questions which ask you to evaluate the positives and negatives of something are common in IELTS Speaking Part 3, so it is a good idea to consider the common topics that appear in the test and think in advance about what you see as the positives and negatives.

For example, for the topic of towns and cities, you might be asked about the advantages and disadvantages of living in a city or in the countryside. For the topic of health, you might be asked about the advantages or benefits of being a vegetarian, or of playing team sports. It is good revision practice to think about questions like these in advance of the Speaking test.

Advantages of online shopping

- ☐ It is convenient for people with busy working lives.
- ☐ It is useful for buying last-minute presents.
- ☐ Things can be cheaper online because you are often buying directly from the manufacturer.
- ☐ You can buy things that you can't find in local shops.
- ☐ You can read customer reviews to help you choose the right products.
- ☐ You don't have to drive to the shops or spend a day walking around town.

Disadvantages of online shopping

- ☐ Customer reviews on shopping websites may have been written by the companies, not the customers.
- ☐ It is easier to spend money without thinking about it.
- ☐ You can't really try a product or get a good idea of what it is from a photo.
- ☐ You have to pay for delivery and things can get lost in the post.
- ☐ You put yourself at risk of internet fraud.