

Read the text. Then complete the task.

E-shopping or online shopping simply means shopping via the Internet. An example is the integrated online shopping-cart system that allows the user to order directly over the Web. Then, there is the online shopping-cart system that allows the user to generate an order form to be sent to the merchant via fax or snail-mail.

Today, many people are taking advantage of this convenient way of shopping. However, together with this luxury of convenience, new concerns on information security have emerged, with online frauds or cybercrimes being one of the biggest threats.

To make e-shopping safer, here are some tips: First, choose e-shopping sites that are well-known or provide trusted services like Amazon.com as these sites "put their name on the line". When in doubt, always check out the merchant website. Contact someone there who can verify the company's privacy policy for you before you make a purchase. Ask if they will send you a catalogue. If they do not list phone numbers and only have an e-mail address, you must be careful.

Before typing in your credit card information, look for the "plural URL." That is, when you go to the site's checkout page, the "http" in the URL should change to "https." A closed padlock or key should also appear on the page, letting you know your personal information will be encrypted or scrambled. If you do not see either of these "locked" icons or a change in the URL, log out and shop elsewhere. Even if you see a proof of encryption, such as the plural URL, you should not equate that with the site's trustworthiness. To verify the site's trustworthiness, call the company to ask about its privacy policy.

You have found a trustworthy site with a secure checkout page. Now you are ready to pay. With what do you pay? Cheque, money order, debit card or credit card? Experts say credit cards are the safest method for online purchases as most credit cards have protection on them. Even if someone rips you off, you can dispute the charge. Secondly, by using a credit card, it is not just your money on the line but also the creditor's. If you have a problem with your transaction, the credit card company will help you resolve it. If you are at the checkout page and the site asks for your date of birth and identity card number, be very careful as people can manipulate this combination to start applying for new credit cards in your name. If anything seems suspicious, call up the company. Also, be wary of sending out credit card information via e-mail or instant messaging as neither is encrypted.

According to the latest survey, books are one of the things bought most online. This is followed by accessories. Cosmetics and groceries are increasingly being purchased online. Today, most of the travellers are buying tickets online because it is a quick and easy way to make a purchase.

Task One: For each item, write a short answer (not more than FOUR WORDS)

1. What is the biggest threat against e-shopping?

2. What is the second commodity in demand online?

3. How can orders be sent to merchants?

4. How can people pay when shopping online?

5. What should you do before typing in your credit card information?

6. Why do most travellers buy tickets online?

Task Two: Indicate whether the following statements are true or false:

Statement	True	False
7. shopping from well-known sites is a risk.	☐	☐
8. Amazon is one of the most trusted online shopping sites.	☐	☐
9. Books are the most popular items purchased online.	☐	☐
10. The writer advises people to be careful when they do online shopping.	☐	☐