

Part 1

Listen to the conversation. Then choose the correct answers.

- ____ 1. The woman is
A. comparison shopping.
B. bargain hunting.
C. browsing
- ____ 2. The woman
A. has asked to be helped.
B. is being asked to buy something.
C. doesn't want to be helped.
- ____ 3. What did the woman probably say to the salesperson next?
A. That's good to know.
B. I won't fall for that.
C. There are no two ways about it.

Part 2

Listen to the conversation. Then choose the correct answers.

- ____ 4. The woman is
A. comparison shopping.
B. bargain hunting.
C. browsing.
- ____ 5. The man
A. convinces the woman that all socks are the same.
B. isn't familiar with different brands of socks.
C. prefers convenience to quality.
- ____ 6. What did the woman probably say to her friend next?
A. That's debatable.
B. That's just wishful thinking.
C. It's like comparing apples and oranges.

Part 3

Listen to the conversation. Then choose the correct answers.

- ____ 7. The two people are
A. bargain hunting.
B. window shopping.
C. browsing.
- ____ 8. The woman
A. appreciated being told not to buy the laptop.
B. is kicking herself for not buying the laptop.
C. had to be convinced to buy the laptop.
- ____ 9. What did the woman probably say to her friend next?
A. Let's call it even.
B. I really owe you one.
C. Tell you what.

Part 4

Listen to the conversation. Then choose the correct answers.

- ____ 10. What is the main idea of the conversation?
A. The two people are discussing the ways they use the Internet to shop.
B. The two people are talking about how ads contribute to an addiction.
C. The two people are talking about how to improve the Internet.

____ 11. Based on the conversation, which statement is true?

- A. The man is looking for a job.
- B. The woman does research at her job.
- C. The man likes being told what to buy.

____ 12. What can you infer from the conversation?

- A. The man now knows how to put on a tie.
- B. The woman spends more time looking at ads than doing research.
- C. The woman doesn't click on shopping ads.

Part 5

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the words in parentheses.

- 13. I don't like _____ (force) to listen to the same commercials over and over again every time I turn on the radio.
- 14. I never expect _____ (tell) the truth when I read the information in an advertisement.
- 15. Sam preferred _____ (not / take) around the office for introductions.
- 16. Do people who buy on impulse want their purchases _____ (keep) secret?
- 17. Many shopaholics resent _____ (criticize) by their family and friends.
- 18. Angie hates _____ (not / invite) on our shopping trips.
- 19. If I have to watch a commercial, I want _____ (entertain).

Part 6

Match the statements with the correct responses. Choose the letter.

- A. It completely plays on people's patriotism.
- B. I know. They're really using snob appeal to sell their products.
- C. I don't believe it. They probably paid a lot for those testimonials.
- D. Their strategy is totally to play on people's hidden fears.
- E. Yeah, I like being provided facts and figures, too.
- F. They really manipulate people's emotions.
- G. Well, companies like to convince people to jump on the bandwagon.

____ 20. Those weight-loss ads that use images of happy skinny people to appeal to customer's feelings are terrible.

____ 21. Did you see that ad for the new clothing company claiming that buying their clothes will help you show your love for your country?

____ 22. I really can't stand being told that I'll be cool and like everyone else if I buy something.

____ 23. I prefer ads that tell me about the superiority of a product with statistics.

- ____ 24. I can't believe that company got such famous people to endorse their products.
- ____ 25. Those watch ads are so glamorous, with people on yachts and at parties in evening gowns and tuxedos.
- ____ 26. After watching that commercial, I'm afraid that I'll be ugly if I don't buy their skin cream.

Part 7

Read the article. Then answer the questions. Choose the correct answers.

The Advertising Spiral

How do companies choose the content of their advertisements? The answer depends on the product, but it also depends on where the product is in the advertising spiral. Consider ads for smart phones. The ads these days are quite different than the ads for the first smart phones. Lots of people bought smart phones when they first came out, which suggests that earlier ads were successful. So why did the ads need to be changed if they were so effective? Advertising experts point to the advertising spiral for the answer. The spiral is a model that can explain the stages that a product goes through from the time it hits the market until it becomes familiar to the public.

First, when a product is still a novelty, people know very little about it, so it needs to be introduced to the public. That's the job of an advertisement at the beginning of the spiral. Later, when the product becomes familiar and develops competition, the advertising strategy needs to be adjusted. If the company is lucky, their product continues to be successful and reaches the final stage of the spiral. At this stage, the company has to make efforts to maintain their success. As a result, the advertising strategy must be changed to match the product's position in the market

Consider, once again, the example of smart phones. When the first smart phones emerged on the market, the public didn't know much about their benefits. In fact, most people didn't even know how to use them. As a result, the first ads were mostly demonstrations; they showed the public all of the things that could be done with this new device—finding a restaurant, checking the weather, etc. Such ads are designed to convince consumers to jump on the bandwagon.

Soon, however, there were lots of smart phones being offered by many different companies, so the first company needed to show that its phone was the best. This is the second stage of the spiral. Perhaps its phone has more features, or it could be dropped without breaking, or maybe it's a bargain compared to other models. As Brian Ito of Techno.com explains, in many cases, the products from different companies are actually quite similar, so it can be difficult for consumers to distinguish among them. Companies use a variety of strategies to show their products are the best, such as including testimonials from famous people and citing impressive statistics and objective information.

Finally, we reach the end of the spiral. The public is now very familiar with the product, its features, and its benefits. However, consumers are equally familiar with competing products. At this point, the company simply wants consumers to be constantly reminded of its product's existence. Their ads no longer need to explain the product or even why it is better than its competitors. Instead, the ads at this stage are more likely to simply show people using the product. An ad for a smart phone might, for example, just show a student using her phone to help her in school. Another ad might rely on snob appeal, perhaps showing a well-dressed man in an expensive car reaching for his phone. According to business professor, Anil Shahani, it is at this stage that most companies have trouble holding on to their customers, so the ads take on special importance.

- ____ 27. Which statement best summarizes the content of the article?
- A. Advertising is a complex process that requires careful planning.
 - B. Consumers will respond to the appropriate stage in the spiral.
 - C. Ads should be designed to fit a specific stage in the spiral.
- ____ 28. According to the article, which image might have been used to advertise the smart phone when it first appeared on the market?
- A. Young people at a party making phone calls.
 - B. A middle-aged woman using her phone to do an Internet search for information.
 - C. Two phones side-by-side with statistics on which one performs better.
- ____ 29. What might a consumer see in an ad for a laptop in the second stage of the advertising spiral?
- A. A student working on a laptop late at night.
 - B. Someone using his laptop by a swimming pool.
 - C. A laptop screen with brilliant clear colors.
- ____ 30. Why are ads particularly important in the final stage of the spiral?
- A. Consumers don't know about new features.
 - B. Consumers are not as excited about the product anymore.
 - C. Consumers can't tell how the product is different from its competitors.
- ____ 31. What is the general purpose of an advertisement in the first stage of the advertising spiral?
- A. to provide information
 - B. to adjust the market strategy
 - C. to replace earlier products
- ____ 32. Use context to guess the meaning of a novelty.
- A. something that is difficult to understand
 - B. something that everybody wants
 - C. something new and interesting
- ____ 33. Use context to guess the meaning of distinguish.
- A. decide which to buy
 - B. tell the difference
 - C. keep track of

Writing Test

Describe an advertisement that really annoyed you or persuaded you to buy something. Write a paragraph about each, giving reasons for your views. Include what you do and don't like being shown or told in advertisements.
