Unit 5 | Lesson C

5C Which should I buy?

HOW TO ... | summarise information from different sources
VOCABULARY | describing products
PRONUNCIATION | intonation in summarising phrases

VOCABULARY

describing products

1 A Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

1 When you are thinking about buying something, where do you get information about it?
2 Look quickly at the texts in Exs 1B and 2. Where does the different information come from?
3 Have you ever ridden an e-bike? What do you know about them?

B Read the message exchange. What useful information does Sam tell Lynn?

C Chat — Lynn Green

Hi Sam, I'm shopping for an e-bike and you're a bit of an expert. What type should I get? I don't mind paying for something good if it's really worth it. 10:00

Hi Lynn. Big question. There are mountain bikes, cruiser bikes, commuter bikes ... What do you want to use it for? 10:02

Basically, for getting to and from work, and for doing shopping. Maybe a bit of exercise, but nothing major. 10:05

OK, so a commuter bike would probably be best for you. 10:06

One question. What if I want to ride in the forest? You know how hilly it is here. Maybe I should get a mountain bike, but I don't want anything too heavy. 10:07

You can't put a rack or a basket on most mountain bikes. They're not good for shopping or carrying a laptop to work and they're often quite heavy. 10:09

OK. But can I ride a commuter bike in the forest? 10:10

Depends. Some models can, like the Dorith and the Wells Rider. I'd recommend one of those, actually. 10:13

What's the difference between those two? 10:14

Good question. Why don't you have a look at some online reviews? 10:17

2 Read the reviews of two e-bikes. How might these help Lynn with her decision?

Review of the Dorith ★★★★ 4 months ago

My overall experience with the Dorith was positive. It was comfortable to ride, though the ride was nothing special. The motor is quiet and the battery range of 80 km is **impressive**. The bike is **solid** and feels very **stable**. At 26 kg it's a bit heavy, but I didn't mind this.

If you're in the market for a **decent** electric bike for commuting and maybe the occasional weekend ride in the hills, but not serious climbing, then the Dorith is a really excellent choice. It's a good all-rounder, very practical, and for £1,899 it's **superb** value.

Review of the Wells Rider ★★★★ 2 days ago

Excellent value, good enough for me!

I purchased the Wells Rider two weeks ago and I've been mostly happy with it. It is especially **suitable** for getting around the city. The small motor means it isn't too heavy, about 22 kg. The only thing I'm disappointed with is the range – the manufacturer promised 60 km on a single charge, and I've lost power after 40 km, which is **acceptable** for me but not what I expected. I've been off-road with the bike and it was a pleasant surprise. It moved really well. For the **reasonable** price of £1,400, I think it's not a bad buy at all!

3 A Match the adjectives in bold in the reviews with the meanings (1–6).

1 good enough for the purpose (2 words) **decent**
2 very good (2 words)
3 having the right qualities for a particular person or situation
4 fair, not too high (or low) when we talk about price
5 strong, not likely to break easily
6 not falling down easily

B Look at the phrases (a–d) from the reviews. Number them in order from most to least positive.

a not a bad buy
b nothing special
c a pleasant surprise
d an excellent choice 1

C Work in pairs. Talk about things you bought recently. Use words and phrases from Exs 3A and 3B.

How to ...

summarise information from different sources

4 A 5.05 | Listen to Lynn and her friend discuss the e-bikes. Which one does Lynn decide to buy? Why?

B Work in pairs. Complete each sentence with one word.

1 **From** _____ **he says**, it depends on what you want to use it for.
2 **The only** _____ **is that** a mountain bike is no good for carrying things like shopping.
3 **According** _____ Sam, it's quite heavy.
4 **Long** _____ **short**, it's a better bike.
5 So **it's a** _____ **of** whether you want to pay more for more range and a better uphill ride?
6 Yes, **in the** _____, it's a question of how much I want to pay.
7 **All** _____ **all**, reviewers of both models were happy with their bikes.
8 **It all comes** _____ **to** the price.
9 Well, **just** _____ **something's** less expensive, **it doesn't mean** it's not good.
10 Yes, **taking** _____ **into account**, I think the Wells Rider is good enough for me.

C 5.06 | Listen and check your ideas.

5 A Work in pairs. Put the phrases in bold in Ex 4B into the correct group.

saying where you got the information	From what he says, ...
summing up ideas	Long story short, ...
focusing on a specific point	The only thing is that ...

B Learn and practise. Go to the Grammar Bank.

page 120 **GRAMMAR BANK**

PRONUNCIATION

6 A | intonation in summarising phrases | Work in pairs. Look at the phrases in Ex 4B and find the ones that are followed by commas.

B 5.07 | Listen to the phrases with commas from Exercise 4B. Does the intonation go up or down at the end of the phrase?

C 5.07 | Listen again and say the phrase at the same time as the speaker. Pay attention to intonation.

7 A Think of something that you've recently bought or have read or heard about. Prepare to talk about it using at least four of the phrases in Ex 5A.

B Work with a different partner from Ex 3C and tell them about the item. Pay attention to the intonation of the summarising phrases.

SPEAKING

8 A Work in pairs. What are the features and qualities of a good backpack? Look at the images and discuss.

B Work in pairs. You are going to choose the best backpack for two people. Read the information (a and b) about them. Then go to page 142. Use more detailed information about the backpacks to decide on the best bag for each person.

a a college student who carries a laptop and some books to and from college every day, and also sometimes takes weekend trips to see friends
b a businessperson who carries a laptop and documents to and from the office, and also takes short overnight business trips from time to time

MEDIATION SKILLS
selling an idea
explain something clearly to sell an idea to other people

page 132 **MEDIATION BANK**

5C How to ... summarise information from different sources

REFERENCE page 63

We use these phrases to summarise information from information that we read or hear.

saying where we got an idea from

From what X say(s), ...
From what everyone says, it's a very reliable company.
According to X, ...
According to the reviews, the film is the best ever in the series.
Notice that we use a comma after these phrases.

summing up ideas

Long story short, ...
Long story short, no-one seems to agree which is better value for money.
It's a matter/question of (whether / how much / when, etc.) ...
So, **it's a matter of whether** I want to wait a long time.
All in all, ...
All in all, there seem to be a lot of problems with that model.
Taking everything into account / If we take everything into account, ...
Taking everything into account, I've decided to stick with my current broadband supplier.
In the end, ...
In the end, I decided not to buy a new phone.
Notice We use a comma after these phrases.

focusing on a specific point

Just because something is (+ adjective), **it doesn't mean (that) it is** (+ adjective).
Well, **just because something's expensive, it doesn't mean it's better**.
It all comes down to (the price / the colour / whether / how much, etc. ...)
It all comes down to the colour.
Notice After question words we use normal sentence order, not a question form.
It all comes down to when **it would arrive**. NOT **It all comes down to when would it arrive**.
It's a question of **how much it costs**. NOT **It's a question of how much does it cost**.

focusing on a specific problem

The (only) thing is (that) ...
The thing is the watch isn't waterproof.
The only thing is that Piotr advised me not to choose a hybrid.

PRACTICE

1 Choose the correct words to complete the conversations. In two cases, both are possible.

Conversation 1

A: Have you decided on a hotel?
B: Well, taking ¹ **all / everything** into account, I think the Sunshine is better.
A: Why's that?
B: From ² **what do / what** the reviews say, it's quiet, the pool is beautiful and the food's great, too.
A: What about the price?
B: It's a lot more reasonable than the other hotel. But ³ **simple / just** because something's cheaper, it doesn't ⁴ **mean that / mean** it's worse.
A: That's true. And ⁵ **in the end, / it all comes down** you have to make a choice and see what it's like.
B: Yeah, basically.

Conversation 2

A: How was the trip?
B: Well, ⁶ **all in all / long short story**, it was fine. ⁷ **Only a thing / The only thing** is that there wasn't a sauna.
A: Seriously? Is that a real problem?
B: ⁸ **According to / From what says** the hotel brochure, there was a sauna. But there wasn't.
A: So did you complain?
B: Well, I don't like to do that. ⁹ **It's a matter / It's question** of how much time and energy I want to spend. ¹⁰ **Long story short / In end**, everything else was fine. We enjoyed it.
A: ¹¹ **It all comes down to that / It's a matter of that**, doesn't it? How much you enjoyed it.
B: Yes, and ¹² **if you take / taking** everything into account – the food, the atmosphere, the rooms – it really was OK.

2 Use the prompts to complete the conversation.

A: Shall / have / dinner / somewhere new tonight?
B: How about the Stagecoach Inn? According / the reviews, / food / be / superb.
A: But just / the reviews / be / positive, / it / not / mean / the restaurant / be / good.
B: you / heard / something / negative?
A: One / my colleagues / eat / there last week. From / she / say, / I / be / not so sure about it.
B: Why, / what / she / say?
A: Basically, / food / be / excellent, / only / thing / be / that / service / bit slow.
B: So, / be / question / whether / we / be / prepared / wait for a good meal.
A: All / all, / I / rather / stay / at home / and order / a takeaway.
B: Let / do / that.

Homework

Lesson 5C

HOW TO ... | summarise information from different sources
VOCABULARY | describing products
PRONUNCIATION | intonation in summarising phrases

VOCABULARY

describing products

1 A Choose the correct words to complete the reviews.

★★★★★
Perfect family table
Very pleased with our new table – it looks great, and the quality is ¹ **stable / superb**. The description says that it's ² **impressive / suitable** for around six people, but you can fit eight people around it comfortably. For the ³ **reasonable / value** price of £249, it's a great buy.

★★
Not worth the money
The table looks ⁴ **fair / decent**, but the quality is poor. The wood gets damaged easily and it isn't very strong or ⁵ **acceptable / stable**. Very disappointed with my purchase.

★★★★
Great purchase
A wonderful, ⁶ **solid / reasonable** table, but quite heavy to move around. I love the simple style and it looks much more expensive than it is. Excellent value for money.

B Complete the conversation using words from the box.

acceptable discount impressive pleasant reasonable stable suitable superb

A: That's an ¹ _____ bike. Is it new?
B: Yes, I got it last week.
A: It looks great!
B: Thanks. I'm very pleased with it. The quality is absolutely ² _____, and the price was very ³ _____.
A: Is it ⁴ _____ for cycling in the mountains?
B: Yes, and the city. It's a bit heavy but it feels very strong and ⁵ _____, so I don't mind.

How to ...

summarise information from different sources

2 A 5.04 | Listen to two people choosing a hotel for a holiday. Which hotel do they choose?

B 5.04 | Listen again. Choose the correct option to complete the extracts from the recording.

1 **From / By** what she says, there are lots of options ...
2 ... It's a question of **do / whether** we want to be in the centre ...
3 According **to / with** the reviews, it has big rooms ...
4 ... all in **short / all**, I think it's a better hotel.
5 Well, **only / just** because something's cheaper, it doesn't mean it's worse.
6 **The only / An only** thing is, the marina is a bit further from the train station.
7 Well, taking everything **in / into** account ...

PRONUNCIATION

3 5.05 | intonation in summarising phrases | Listen to two speakers saying the same phrase. Choose the speaker who uses appropriate intonation (A or B).

1 Speaker _____
2 Speaker _____
3 Speaker _____
4 Speaker _____
5 Speaker _____
6 Speaker _____

SPEAKING

4 A 5.06 | Complete the conversation with one word in each gap. Then listen and check.

A: Have you bought a new laptop yet?
B: No, I'm still trying to decide which one to get, the X200 or the Pro-Top.
A: What's the difference?
B: According ¹ _____ reviews, the Pro-Top has more memory and a bigger screen than the X200. But the X200 is much cheaper.
A: Well, just ² _____ something's cheap, it doesn't mean it isn't any good.
B: I know! The only thing ³ _____, the Pro-Top is very solid and heavy. I cycle to work, so I want something light that I can carry in my backpack.
A: Is the X200 lighter?
B: Yes, it's much smaller. And ⁴ _____, what the reviews say, it's slightly faster than the Pro-Top.
A: So, it's a matter ⁵ _____ whether you want a computer with more memory or a lighter one.
B: Yes. All ⁶ _____ all, I think the X200 is a better choice for me.

B 5.07 | You are B in Ex 4A. Listen and speak after the beep. Record the conversation if you can.

C Listen to your recording and compare it to Ex 4A.

LIVEWORKSHEETS