

**SOLUTIONS UPPER-INTERMEDIATE 5**  
**UNIT 9: CONSUMERISM**  
**9B**

**PEGAH BAHOJB GHASEMI**

# 9

## Consumerism

### Vocabulary

#### A


### Shopping

*I can talk about the consumer society.*

1 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs below.


budget   get into debt   knock down   overcharge  
shop around   snap up

I have to buy lots of things at the beginning of the university year. I <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ carefully for everything I need to buy and the most expensive things are my books. So, I always <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and see which shops are selling things the cheapest as I don't want to <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ before the year has even started. Fortunately, I saw a 10% discount on books at a local bookshop and decided quickly to <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the ones that I needed. However, the shop almost <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ me! They had forgotten to <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the price of the books by 10% on their computers.

- 2  2.21 Listen to five dialogues about money. Match sentences A–F with speakers 1–5. There is one extra sentence.

This speaker ...

- A has been spending too much money and has got into debt.
- B hasn't picked up any bargains.
- C explained that she was almost overcharged for something.
- D has been haggling at a local market.
- E has splashed out on something that cost a lot.
- F has been budgeting for a future activity that will cost a lot of money.

3  2.21 Listen again and complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs below.

afford knock down overspend shop around snap up

- 1 Speaker 1 has been \_\_\_\_\_ all day.
- 2 Speaker 2 thinks she will be able to \_\_\_\_\_ everything on her trip if she saves money.
- 3 Speaker 3 was able to \_\_\_\_\_ the price of her laptop by 10%.
- 4 Speaker 4 has \_\_\_\_\_ and had to borrow money from a friend.
- 5 Speaker 5 says she \_\_\_\_\_ some shoes in the sale.

**4 Complete the sentences with one word in each gap.**

- 1 If you overspend, you might get into \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 2 If you \_\_\_\_\_ at the market, the stall owner might knock \_\_\_\_\_ the price.
- 3 If you \_\_\_\_\_ around, you might find things cheaper.
- 4 If you shop in the sales, you might \_\_\_\_\_ up some bargains.
- 5 If you \_\_\_\_\_ for how much you can spend before you go shopping, you won't spend more money than you can \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 6 It's always a good idea to check the receipt after you buy something to make sure you haven't been \_\_\_\_\_ .



5 Replace the underlined phrases with the words below.

delivery items notification reviews track wish list



I've been waiting for a number of <sup>1</sup>goods that I ordered online. I had a <sup>2</sup>list of things that I wanted and decided to buy everything on it! I've been to the website to <sup>3</sup>follow the progress of my order, but there's no information. Neither have I received a <sup>4</sup>message with information about <sup>5</sup>when they will brings the goods to my house. The <sup>6</sup>customer opinions of this site were positive, but my experience of it isn't!

## 6 Complete the definitions.

- 1 A w\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_ is a list of things that you want to buy.
- 2 A c\_\_\_\_\_ o\_\_\_\_\_ is a place where you pay for goods.
- 3 A n\_\_\_\_\_ is information sent to someone about something.
- 4 An i\_\_\_\_\_ is an individual unit, often part of a list or group.
- 5 A b\_\_\_\_\_ is a place on a website where you can see the goods you have decided to buy. It is also a physical thing that you use in a supermarket.
- 6 A r\_\_\_\_\_ is an opinion about a product or service.
- 7 A d\_\_\_\_\_ involves goods, letters, parcels, etc. being taken to a person's house, office, or place of work.
- 8 When you t\_\_\_\_\_ something, you follow it by using a website or electronic equipment.











**WHAT SHOULD WE  
DO TO REDUCE  
LITTER WE ARE  
PRODUCING?**







A close-up photograph showing a hand holding a piece of a broken, light-colored, porous object, possibly a piece of pottery or a natural material, which is heavily coated in dark soil. Another similar piece lies on the ground nearby. The scene is set in a hole dug into the earth, with green grass and soil visible around the edges. The lighting is natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

**CAPABLE OF BEING DECOMPOSED BY BACTERIA OR OTHER LIVING ORGANISMS AND THEREBY AVOIDING POLLUTION.**





**BIODEGRADABLE:** CAPABLE OF BEING DECOMPOSED BY BACTERIA OR OTHER LIVING ORGANISMS AND THEREBY AVOIDING POLLUTION.



1 Is there a problem with litter where you live? Read the opinions below. Who do you think should be responsible for reducing litter?

# A load of rubbish?


One thing I can't stand is all the litter outside fast food restaurants. What they should do is employ extra staff to help clean up the streets. **Rob K**

The people that I blame are the teenagers – it's them who cause all the problems. The town where I live is full of youngsters, hanging around in gangs and leaving rubbish everywhere – it's a disgrace. **Daniel**


There's so much plastic packaging nowadays. All the government needs to do is force companies to use biodegradable or recyclable materials in their products and the problem will be solved. **Bex**








**I DO BELIEVE THAT  
GOVERNMENT  
SHOULD THINK  
TWICE ABOUT THE  
POLLUTION  
SITUATION.**




**I DO BELIEVE THAT  
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**IT IS THE AWFUL  
WEATHER THAT  
DRIVES HIM  
CRAZY.**





**IT IS THE AWFUL  
WEATHER THAT  
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**WHAT WE NEED  
IS A LONG  
HOLIDAY.**



**WHAT WE NEED  
IS A LONG  
HOLIDAY.**



**ALL I WANT IS TO  
TRAVEL ALL  
AROUND THE  
WORLD.**





**ALL I WANT IS TO  
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- 2 Read the **Learn this!** box. Then find examples of each rule in exercise 1.

**LEARN THIS!** Emphasis (1)



1 We can emphasise key information in a sentence by:

- a** adding a clause with *It is / was*, etc. ... *that* ... at the start of the sentence.

*Joe bought a tablet last weekend.*

*It was Joe who bought a tablet last weekend.*

*It was a tablet that Joe bought last weekend.*

*It was last weekend that Joe bought a tablet.*

We often use this structure to make a contrast:

*It was a tablet that Joe bought, not a smartphone.*

- b** adding a clause with *What*.

*Kate lost her debit card.*

*What Kate lost was her debit card.*

*What Kate did was lose her debit card.*

*What happened was that Kate lost her debit card.*

2 We can use *All (that)* in the same way as *What*. It means 'the only thing.'

*I just need some money.*

*All (that) I need is some money.*

*They only needed to ask.*

*All (that) they needed to do was ask.*



**3 Rewrite the sentences (1–7) to make a contrast. Begin with *It* and emphasise the underlined words.**

1 Mia isn't coming shopping with us. Lara is.

*It's Lara who's coming with us, not Mia.*

2 I haven't got a credit card. I've got a debit card.


3 The first supermarket opened in 1916. It wasn't 1920.

4 Her mum doesn't work in a store. Her aunt does.


5 Many people don't want quality. They want low prices.

6 The sales start on Friday. They don't start today.

7 I blame teenagers for the litter. I don't blame the restaurants.



**THE PLACE YOU  
HAVE TO MEET  
HENRY IS NEAR  
THE DOWNTOWN.**



**THE PLACE YOU  
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## **LEARN THIS!** Emphasis (2)



We can start a sentence with a phrase that describes the person, thing, or place that we want to emphasise.

*The person (that) you need to speak to is Tom.*

*One thing (that) I really hate is consumerism.*

*A place (that) I'd really like to visit is Norway.*

4 Read the **Learn this!** box. Then find two examples in exercise 1. How would the sentences read without the emphatic structure?

**5 Rewrite the sentences (1–6). Begin with the words in brackets and emphasise the underlined words.**

1 Store loyalty cards have really caught on. (One idea ...)

2 It's the directors of companies who should change. (The people ...)

3 Many European firms are investing in Asia. (One place ...)

4 Greed drives most consumerism. (The thing ...)

5 Plastic packaging creates most waste. (The thing ...)

6 Self-service stores first opened in the USA. (The country ...)



6 Complete the text with the words below. Use each word once.

all it's one that thing what where

The <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that annoys me most is the litter. Clearly <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that some people care about is convenience, not the environment. So <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the government needs to do is prosecute those involved in anti-social behaviour. But <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the businesses themselves that also need to take more responsibility – for example, the place <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I usually shop has installed CCTV to deter people from dropping rubbish outside. And <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ thing they've tried successfully in some places is putting up lifesize cardboard police officers. It seems all <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ some people need is a gentle reminder to act responsibly.

**7 SPEAKING** In pairs, think of different ways to complete each sentence. Then compare your ideas with other pairs.

- 1 The places in my town that have the most litter are ...
- 2 All we need to do to reduce litter is ...

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the text.

## Our guide to the best places to shop in town

### Brown & Hegarty

At Brown & Hegarty, the oldest and most well-known designer store, you can find the finest luxury goods. Why don't you <sup>1</sup>**splash out / overcharge** and buy one of their beautiful designer bags? Or you could <sup>2</sup>**shop around / pick up** the perfect birthday present for a special friend.

### Best Buy

When you have to <sup>3</sup>**budget / afford** carefully, Best Buy is the place to go. You can <sup>4</sup>**overspend / snap up** a bargain in their special offers section. And the bargains don't end when the shop closes. Go online and fill your <sup>5</sup>**checkout / basket** with all sorts of fascinating <sup>6</sup>**items / notifications** from their 'Weird and Wonderful' section. All the best bargains are at Best Buy!

### Indoor market

Anything and everything is for sale at the indoor market. And if you love to <sup>7</sup>**track / haggle**, you can get the stallholders to <sup>8</sup>**rip off / knock down** their prices.



**2 Complete the text with the words and phrases below.**

afford   delivery   get into debt   overspend   reviews   ripped off   shopping around   wish list

I don't really enjoy shopping on the high street because I think in a lot of shops you get  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ and I can't 2 \_\_\_\_\_ to buy their over-priced products.  
I really don't want to 3 \_\_\_\_\_, so I never 4 \_\_\_\_\_. However, I  
do spend a lot of time 5 \_\_\_\_\_ on the internet. I like the fact that you can read  
6 \_\_\_\_\_ of different products, and many online shops now offer free  
7 \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, I've got a 8 \_\_\_\_\_ on my favourite big online store, so  
when it's my birthday, it will be easy for people to choose and order a present for me.

**3** **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- Do you prefer shopping on the high street or online? Why?
- What is your favourite shop? Why do you like it?
- What is your worst shopping experience?
- Do you ever buy something and then immediately regret it?
- Would you ever pay a large amount of money for a designer item? Why? / Why not?

**ASSIGNMENT:**  
**WORKBOOK 9B**  
**GRAMMAR BUILDER 141**

**DEADLINE: SATURDAY**