

1. Complete the sentences to make them true for you. Use the ideas in the box:

clothes shoes handbags and jewellery CDs DVDs
books
electronic gadgets food furniture and things for the house presents

I really hate shopping for ...

I love shopping for...

I never go shopping for ...

2. If you could go out and buy anything today, what would it be? Do you ever buy things you don't need?

3. This is a headline of an article: "CONSUMER CRAZY", followed by this photo:



What do you think the article is about?

Read the article and answer:

1 Would you like to have Louise or Andrew's lifestyle? Why /Why not?

2 Who, if either, are you naturally more similar to? In what way?

3 What do you think it would be like living with or being married to one of these people?

4 Do you think Louise has a problem, or is her shopping just harmless fun? Explain your opinion.

5 Do you think Andrew and Chris will be able to live the way they do permanently? Why /Why not?

6 Which physical possessions do you think will be replaced with digital goods in the future? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

1 The extreme shopper

Last Saturday morning Louise Anderson was up early, ready to begin her usual weekend routine. First stop was the shoe department in Selfridges, in London's Oxford Street, then she moved on to other department stores and finally to the designer boutiques along New Bond Street.

When she arrived back in her flat she had three pairs of designer shoes and a matching handbag. She had also picked up two cashmere sweaters, a £200 pot of face cream and another £200 worth of make-up. 'Shopping is my reward to myself for working hard all week,' says 31-year-old Louise, who is single and childless. 'And buying shoes gives me such a high.'

In the last month, Louise has also bought eight designer bikinis and a set of black Gucci luggage.

Louise admits that she doesn't even wear all her purchases. 'There is an entire wall of my bedroom which is covered in boxes of shoes, all carefully labelled,' she says. 'Sometimes I don't actually wear them to go out. I just put them on in my bedroom and admire them.' So what drives her to spend so much on things she will never need?

Louise believes that she deserves these luxuries in return for the stresses of her highly paid job. 'I see shopping as my main hobby. I don't drink and I don't smoke. Most of my money goes on my shopping habit, but it's my money that I'm spending.'

Consumer psychologist Dr Paul Marsden encounters more and more women like Louise, who are 'addicted to shopping'. He believes that the lifestyle of modern women is to blame. 'Women today are time-poor. If they have busy careers, other parts of their lives are often not very satisfactory, but they want to feel good about themselves. Shopping is a quick-fix solution. It's a way of telling themselves that they matter and are important.'

2 The extreme minimalist

Andrew Hyde is a technology mogul and successful entrepreneur who travels between New York City and Silicon Valley. By rights, he should live in an expensive Manhattan apartment and dine in top restaurants. Instead he has chosen to be homeless. 35

And he has reduced his possessions to just 15 things. In addition to the clothes on his back, he has two pieces of outerwear, some exercise clothes, a backpack, a pair of socks, some underwear, a pair of sunglasses, a phone, a laptop, an iPhone, a camera and one or two other items. 40

So what made him sell everything else that he owned? For Andrew it is all about freedom from the responsibility of possessions. Socrates once said, 'Happiness is not found in seeking more, but in learning to enjoy less.' Or as Andrew puts it on his blog, 'Lack of choice helps, not hurts.' 45

Andrew is not alone. Chris Yurista, a DJ and travel agent from Washington, DC, has also given up his apartment and reduced his possessions to a backpack full of designer clothes, a laptop and a bicycle. For him, like other '21st-century minimalists', technology is the key to it all: digital goods have provided replacements for his physical possessions. 'The internet has replaced my need for an address,' says the 27-year-old, who sleeps on friends' couches. All his bills and letters arrive electronically and his record collection of 2,000 albums has been relocated onto an external hard drive. His only worry is that a hard drive crash or a problem with a server will cause him to lose all his digital possessions. 50

'My life doesn't feel empty, because I've figured out a way to use digital technology to my advantage,' says Mr Yurista. 60

RELATIVE PRONOUNS

1 WHO and THAT are used to refer to people.

2 WHICH and THAT are used to refer to things.

3 WHERE is used to refer to locations and places.

4 WHOSE is used to replace possessives.

7. Complete the definitions below with a word from the box and the correct relative pronoun.

a boiler - a decorator - a cleaner - a cooker - a bodyguard - a freezer - a plumber
a launderette - a photocopier - a stationer's - a vacuum cleaner - a dry cleaner's

_____ is a machine _____ makes copies of documents.

_____ is a person _____ protects important people from being attacked.

_____ is a place with washing machines _____ you can wash your clothes.

_____ is a person _____ job is to mend central heating, taps, etc.

_____ is a machine _____ you use to clean floors and carpets.

8. Which of the gadgets bellow do you own? Do they ever go wrong?

DVD player - Digital Camera - laptop - games console - MP3 player - dishwasher

Tablet - touch screen phone - photocopier - vacuum cleaner - electric cooker

9. Listen to four conversation and answer the questions:

Which gadgets of items above is each person talking about? Which words or phrases tell you this?

10. Listen again and number the phrases in bold in order you hear them

1. try **reinstalling the software**

I have to **restart** it

It **crashes**

The screen **freezes**

2. **Switch** the machine **off** at the wall

the machine **breaks down**

hold down this button

unplug it

3. **Recharge** the battery

touch the icons

Scroll down the menu with your finger

4. **Press** this button

It's **switched on**

It **doesn't work**

pause it

10. Choose a gadget that you own and explain briefly how it works.

PRONUNCIATION

NOUN + NOUN dishwasher

Adjective + noun electric cooker

The underlined words are the stressed parts on pronunciation. Try with these compounds nouns trying where they are stressed:

Recycling bin

Energy drink

Bodyguard

Mobile phone

Washing machine

Personal trainer

Instruction manual

Digital camera

Internet addict

Personal computer

Listen and check. Then, practice saying the compound nouns.