

Reading · Day 3 — Shopping & Money

Part 1

~30 min · Flexible · class time or home practice

Shopping and spending habits are common Part 1 territory. A good chance to practise comparison language (online vs in-store) and habit language. Listen for the conditional creeping in (“I’d rather...”).

Say: *Shopping and money today. This topic loves comparisons — online versus in shops, big malls versus small shops — so it’s perfect for practising “I prefer... because...” and “I’d rather...”.*

How to run it

Put students in pairs (A and B); online students drop into breakout pairs. A plays the examiner and asks the questions below; B answers. Push B for two to three sentences per answer — never a bare one-word reply. Swap roles after about six minutes, then re-pair with a fresh partner and run the set a second time, faster and more fluently. Part 1 has no preparation time in the real test, so don’t let students plan — ask the question and they answer on the spot. That on-your-feet fluency is exactly the skill this builds.

Questions — Shopping & Money

1. Do you enjoy shopping? Why or why not?
2. Do you prefer shopping online or in actual shops?
3. What was the last thing you bought for yourself?
4. Are you a careful spender, or do you spend easily?
5. Do you prefer big shopping centres or small local shops?
6. Has the way people shop changed in your country?
7. Do you ever buy things you don’t really need?

More questions — build a bank

Shopping habits

8. What kinds of things do you enjoy shopping for?
9. Do you make a list before you shop, or decide in the moment?
10. Do you prefer shopping alone or with someone?
11. How has the way you shop changed in recent years?

Money & spending

12. Are you more of a saver or a spender?
13. Do you think it’s important to budget? Why?
14. What’s something you think is worth spending more on?
15. Did your family teach you anything about money?

Comparisons & society

16. Are big shopping malls popular in your country?
17. Do you think people buy too much these days?
18. Do you ever regret things you’ve bought?

19. Is it common to bargain over prices where you live?
 20. Do you prefer to pay with cash or by card? Why?

Example answers — short reply grown into a full one

Online or in shops?

It depends what I'm buying. For everyday things I shop online to save time, but for clothes or anything I want to try on, I'd much rather go in person — too much guesswork otherwise.

Careful spender or spend easily?

I'd say I'm careful by default, but I have my weaknesses — books and good coffee, mainly. I don't mind spending on things I'll use a lot; it's impulse buys I try to resist.

Has shopping changed in your country?

Hugely. Even small shops take mobile payments now, and a lot of people order their groceries to the door, which was almost unheard of a few years ago. It's been a very fast shift.

Pair-work sequence (~30 min)

- ▶ **Interview · 13 min** — A asks every question, B answers (~6 min); swap so B asks and A answers (~6 min). The examiner-partner keeps the pace brisk, like the real test, and resists chatting back. No planning — straight in.
- ▶ **Extend & re-run · 13 min** — New partner. Run the set again — but now every answer must carry a reason (“because...”) and one example or detail. Faster, more natural delivery.
- ▶ **Feedback · 4 min** — Whole-class: read out two answers you overheard that grew from one word into a full, natural reply.

Listen for / feedback: Mark any answer that stops at one word — push that student for a reason and a detail. Praise natural extenders: “Well, actually...”, “I’d say...”, “It depends, but...”. Note tense slips (“I go yesterday”) for a quick thirty-second correction at the end.

Flexibility: Short on time today? Assign the whole set as paired home practice — a quick voice call or an in-person run — and have each student record one answer to bring back. If the room runs ahead of schedule, this slots straight in after the wrap-up.