

UPDATED FOR THE REVISED 2015
CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH: FIRST (FCE)

listening
speaking
writing

NEW

plus

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UPPER-INTERMEDIATE



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Shopping

LISTENING

Pre-listening

- Where do you usually shop?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of shopping in a department store?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of shopping in an open-air market?



Activity 1

You will hear five short extracts in which different women are talking about experiences they had while shopping. For questions 1-5, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says about her experience. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

- A I found exactly what I wanted.
- B I spent too much money.
- C I borrowed money to go shopping.
- D I never shop at open-air markets.
- E I generally hate shopping.
- F I had my bag stolen.
- G I don't really like department stores.
- H I bought something I didn't want.

Speaker 1

1

Speaker 2

2

Speaker 3

3

Speaker 4

4

Speaker 5

5

Activity 2

You will hear a woman talking about 'The Everything Supermarket'. For questions 1-10, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

The Everything Supermarket

Shop Testers visit a different supermarket 1 .

Shop Testers review shops based on the 2 of the products, service, prices and facilities.

In the ethnic aisle, the woman found 3 of products, mainly from Latin America.

There were some 4 , which she thinks was because the staff were too busy to refill them.

She suggests that the owners should 5 .

She was 6 with the service at 'The Everything Supermarket'.

According to the woman, the prices are 7 .

The woman feels that charging for plastic bags is another way for supermarkets to 8 .

The woman couldn't find 9 easily.

As for special offers, the woman says that there 10 .

SPEAKING

Discuss the topic

- Do you like shopping? Why/Why not?
- Do you go shopping before going on holiday? What do you usually buy?
- What presents would you buy for a friend for his/her birthday?

Speculate and make a decision

You wish to buy a present for a friend who has a birthday. Here are some of the items you are considering. Discuss each of the options in turn. First, discuss how these items can be of use. Then decide which one to buy and why. Make sure you justify your answers. Use some of the suggested expressions on the next page.



Which one are you going to buy for your friend and why?

Suggested expressions

I think the best thing to buy would be ... because ...

Then, I would buy ... as ...

I agree/disagree. I think ... is more useful ...

I would definitely buy ...

I believe it would be completely unnecessary to buy ...

I wouldn't buy ... because ...

Further discussion

Discuss the following questions. You can use some of the expressions and the vocabulary given below.

- 1 Is it important to be in fashion? Why/Why not?
- 2 What influences you when you are shopping?
- 3 Is it a good idea to have a credit card? Why/Why not?
- 4 Do you think that people buy more than they need?
- 5 Do you think it's worth waiting for the sales to do your shopping? Why/Why not?

Useful expressions

1 I believe ... because ...

On the other hand, I don't think ...

2 I am influenced by ...

Something else that influences me is ...

I am influenced/persuaded to buy things by ...

3 I suppose ... could come in handy ...

I imagine ... could be useful as ...

4 In my opinion, ...

5 I think/don't think ... because ...



VOCABULARY

trendy

fashionable

advertising

discounts

special offers

media

convenient

handy

compulsive shopping

overspending

safe

unnecessary

consumer society

bargains

WRITING

an informal e-mail/letter

Discuss the topic

- Have you ever bought anything from a shop only to find that it was damaged when you got home? If so, what did you do?
- Do you think that people should complain if something is wrong with a product they have bought? Why/Why not?
- Would you ever buy anything from an online shop, a mail-order catalogue or over the phone? Why/Why not?

Sample writing

1. Read the rubric, the e-mail and the reply. Why is Nicole writing to Annie?

You have received an e-mail from your English-speaking friend Nicole.



_ □ ×

Send

To:

From:

Subject:

Sent: 5th May

Hey Annie,

I'm planning on working at my aunt's café in Sicily in the summer! I'm leaving on 1st June! Didn't you buy an electronic translator before you moved to Italy? Was it any good? I'm thinking of buying one because my Italian is very basic. Do you think it's a good idea?

If not, what else worked for you?

Thanks,

Nicole

Write your e-mail (140-190 words)

To: Nicole Brown

From: Annie Smith

Subject: Translator

Sent: 10th May

Dear Nicole,

Sorry for the delay but I was working on a school project which was due this morning. I had to work hard but, luckily, my teacher was very pleased!

Anyway, how exciting that you are going to Sicily! Working on an island is something I've always wanted to do! You're so lucky! Send me lots of pictures, OK?

As for the electronic language translator, to tell you the truth, it isn't as useful as I thought it would be. It translates individual words quickly, but it is not so helpful with whole phrases of language. With phrases, the translation comes out very confusing sometimes. That's because the meaning of phrases is often quite different from the meaning of the individual words. Working at the café you will probably need to understand more than just individual words, so I don't think the translator will help you much. Why don't you think about buying an English-Italian phrasebook? I actually bought one myself, and it helped me a lot, because it contained useful, everyday expressions that really did the trick.

Anyway, English is an international language and you speak it very well. I'm sure you won't have any difficulty communicating with the tourists.

Write soon,
Annie

2. Answer these questions.

- What points in the e-mail does the writer need to respond to?
- Does the writer respond to these points?
 - How does the writer end the e-mail?
 - Is this e-mail informal, formal or semi-formal? How do you know?

Plan

Remember that an informal e-mail/letter does not serve one specific purpose. It aims to achieve a variety of functions. Below is a plan that may serve as a general guideline when writing an e-mail/letter, with questions, to help you when planning one. Keep in mind that the input material that you are given will determine the order of the points you mention.

Greeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use an appropriate greeting 	
Opening paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use set phrases to begin your e-mail/letter say why you are writing 	<i>Why are you writing this e-mail/letter?</i>
Main part (2-3 paragraphs)	<p>Accomplish the task by carrying out the various functions specific to the e-mail/letter. They could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> giving/requesting information expressing enthusiasm extending/accepting/turning down an invitation giving details asking for/offering advice 	<p><i>How do you feel about the news you received?</i></p> <p><i>What do you wish the recipient to know?</i></p> <p><i>What would you like to know?</i></p> <p><i>Do you wish to extend/accept/turn down an invitation?</i></p> <p><i>Do you wish to give details about sth?</i></p> <p><i>What advice do you wish to give?</i></p>
Closing paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use set phrases to end your e-mail/letter 	<i>Is there something you wish to add?</i>
Signing off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use an appropriate signature ending and your first name below that 	

<p>Making suggestions</p>	<p>Why don't you/we go ... You/We could go ... How about you/us going ... What do you think about ...? I think it would be nice to ... What if we ...? I recommend you go ... I suggest you go ... I think/believe that you/we should ... Maybe, you/we should ... It would be helpful to ... Why not consider ... I think ... would be ...</p>
<p>Asking for advice</p>	<p>What do you think I should do about ... What would you do if you were me/in my shoes/position? Do you think I should ... Can you give me some advice about ... I was hoping you could help me with ... I would appreciate your advice.</p>
<p>Giving advice</p>	<p>If I were you/in your shoes/position, I would ... Why don't you ... Have you tried (-ing) ... What about (-ing) ... You should/ought to ... Try (-ing) ... (-ing) ... could do the trick. I think you'd better ... It would be a good idea to ...</p>
<p>Giving information</p>	<p>Concerning ... you should ... About ..., you could/should/must ... It would be better if you ... The best way to ... is to ... As for ... you I have to say that ...</p>
<p>Requesting information</p>	<p>Could/Can you tell me ... I was wondering if you could tell me ... Tell me a little about ... What about ... Any number of direct questions starting with question words such as: Why / When / What / Where / How / Which / How much / How often, etc. I'd like to know ... I want to find out ...</p>

Writing practice

1. Read the e-mail below. Some sentences have been removed from it. Find which sentence is appropriate for each gap to complete the e-mail so that it makes sense.

To: Jack Gates

From: Jason Swain

Subject: Camping holiday

----- Sent: 5th July -----

Dear Jack,

A. _____ I'm really looking forward to our camping holiday!

You asked about the tent. **B.** _____ The shop assistant said it has room for three but there's actually room for four. Besides this, it's made of durable canvas so it won't tear easily. **C.** _____ **D.** _____

We're leaving on 15th July at 4 o'clock in the morning. So it's going to be an early start for us. For this reason, we are all sleeping at my house on the 14th. **E.** _____ If he's planning on coming, he'd better hurry up and book a ticket for the ferry boat. By the way, don't forget to bring your camera!

F. _____

Bye for now,
Jason

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. You really must get one as it's a real bargain. | 4. Let me fill you in on our plans. |
| 2. It was great hearing from you! | 5. Well, it is even better than I expected. |
| 3. Write soon, won't you? | 6. What has Bill decided to do? |

2. a. Match the sentences on the left with their functions on the right.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Can you tell me about the computer you bought last week? | <input type="checkbox"/> | a. giving information |
| 2. Do you think I should tell my mother how I feel? | <input type="checkbox"/> | b. asking for advice |
| 3. As for the show, it starts at 8 o'clock and tickets are sold at the ticket booth outside the theatre. | <input type="checkbox"/> | c. describing |
| 4. You see, I'm terribly scared of heights so I can't possibly go rock climbing. | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. giving an explanation |
| 5. The wedding reception took place outdoors in a beautiful garden full of red roses. | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. requesting information |

b. Read the parts of two e-mails below and write short responses. Use the ideas in bold and add information if necessary.

1.

It's my flatmate again. She borrows my stuff without asking and she returns it after weeks, at best! It really bothers me. I've thought about doing the same to her, hoping she realises it's annoying. Do you think it's a good idea? If not, what should I do?

- **Be honest**
- **Set ground rules (ask first, return within 3 days)**

2. I'll be visiting your area at the end of the week for a few days! A couple of friends are coming with me and they want to experience the city. What can we do besides sightseeing? What's the best way to get around the city?

- Restaurants and cafés by the sea
- Metro (cheap, fast)

c. Now, try to come up with your own ideas for the following e-mails.

1. I'm going to Ahi Tuna for the first time. Isn't that the Japanese bistro you went to for dinner the other day? Was it any good? What about the prices and service? I'm taking my new colleagues there and I want to make a good impression.

2. I'm thinking of trying bungee jumping at your extreme sports club at the weekend. I called and they said it's 30 euros if I book before the end of the month. Do you think I should go for it? I'm a bit concerned about how safe it is.

3. Task for homework

You have received an e-mail from your English-speaking friend Mark.

I want to buy a few presents for some friends and couldn't find anything I liked in the shops here. I'm thinking of going to the big shopping centre in your area. Is it any good? Are the shops very expensive? I might spend the day there, so are there cafés and restaurants where I could grab a bite to eat?

te your **e-mail (140-190 words)**.

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