

Shopping nation

Task 1: Think of your local shopping area (e.g. a street or town centre). Write the names of six different types of shop and three things you can buy in each one.

Shop:	Shop:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
Shop:	Shop:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
Shop:	Shop:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Task 2: Ask your classmates questions and complete the table.

Find someone who...	Name	Extra information
...bought something new last week.		
...hates shopping.		
...is going shopping next weekend.		
...has worked / would like to work in a shop.		
...has a favourite shop.		
...buys more things online than in shops.		

Task 3: You teacher will give you some short texts to read. Read what the people say about shops and shopping and discuss the questions.

Task 4: Buy Nothing Day is celebrated in many parts of the world. What is it about? Read the article and check your ideas.

Buy Nothing Day

Buy Nothing Day started in 1993 and is now an international event that takes place in more than 55 countries. It is a simple idea to challenge consumer culture and ask people to stop shopping for 24 hours.

Buy Nothing Day encourages people to think about what they buy and the possible effects the product may have on the environment and developing countries. For example, if you buy a new pair of trainers, do you know where they were made and if the people who made them are treated well by the company?

According to the organisers of Buy Nothing Day, shopping itself isn't harmful but what we buy can be. They claim that 20% of the world's population consume 80% of the earth's natural resources. They want consumers to think more about what they buy and to ask themselves some questions before buying anything new. Here are some of the questions to put on your check list:

- Do I need it?
- How many do I already have?
- Will I use it a lot?
- Will it last a long time?
- Could I borrow it from a friend instead?
- Is it recyclable?

Each year Buy Nothing Day is at the end of November. There are some events in town centres to celebrate the event and to encourage shoppers to have a day off and buy absolutely nothing!

Now answer these questions.

1. How long has Buy Nothing Day existed?
2. What happens on Buy Nothing Day?
3. According to the article, why should people think about what they consume?
4. Do you ever ask yourself any of the questions in the article before you buy something new?
5. Does your country celebrate Buy Nothing Day? If so, what happens? If not, do you think it would be successful in your country?
6. Do you think you could buy nothing at all for 24 hours?