

## Shopping nation: Task 3

**Cut up the texts and hand out to different pairs or groups.**

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**Zara:** I LOVE shopping, and I think it's great that shops are open all weekend. I'm busy all week so it's great to be able to go into the city on Sundays and find things to do. Sometimes, I meet up with my friends and we look around the shops. Some people say shopping's my hobby!

- Do you think it's a good idea for shops to be open seven days a week?
- Do you think shopping can be a hobby?

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**Anita:** I hate shopping! I only go shopping when I have to buy something. I don't understand the obsession with shopping. You can buy almost anything you want, whenever you want these days. There's a 24-hour supermarket near my house. I feel sorry for the people who work there all night.

- Do you think it's a good idea for shops to be open 24 hours a day?
- What do you think about the people who work in shops when most people are off work or during the night?

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**Oscar:** Most weekends I go shopping with my girlfriend. There's a new shopping centre near where I live, and you can get everything there. It's great in the winter 'cause you don't even realise it's cold and wet outside. What's the point of working all week if you can't go out and spend your money at the weekend?

- What are some advantages of shopping centres?
- What are some disadvantages of shopping centres?

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**Ben:** I hate the way all the shops in every town centre are the same. It's impossible for small businesses to survive these days so only the big stores can keep going. Every town and city in Britain is a carbon copy of the others. I'd like some more independent shops!

- Are shopping areas the same in your country? Do they have many of the same shops?
- Why do you think it can be difficult for independent shops to survive?

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**Maryam:** I live in a small town and it's really changed in the last few years. Big stores have opened up outside the town and now everyone drives there. It's a real shame because many of the smaller shops in the town centre have closed. It used to be really busy, but now it's dying.

- Has a similar thing happened where you live?
- How can towns attract more people to shop there?

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**Ezra:** I do nearly all my shopping online. It's so convenient. I love having stuff delivered right to my front door. It saves me a lot of time. I hate the crowds and the queues of town centres, and I don't like the artificial atmosphere of shopping centres, so for me the internet is a great way to shop.

- What are some advantages of internet shopping?
- What are some disadvantages of internet shopping?

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**Joshua:** I work in a sports' shop in the town centre and people just go crazy buying so much stuff, especially before holidays. I don't get it. Do people really need all that stuff? I bet most of it ends up in sheds and cupboards! Well, it's their money, I guess!

- Why do you think some people buy more than they need?
- Do you think it matters if people buy more than they need?

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