



Buy Nothing Day (A2 - Pre-Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you enjoy shopping? Why (not)?
2. What kind of shopping do/don't you enjoy?
3. What things do you prefer to buy online or in shops? Why?
4. Have you ever bought anything on Black Friday? If so, was it a bargain?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and complete them.

1. Buy Nothing Day is in _____ November.
2. The first Buy Nothing Day took place in Canada in September, _____.
3. In the United States, it's celebrated on the day after _____.
4. In a TV advertisement for Buy Nothing Day, North America was shown as a _____.
5. Now the day is celebrated in about _____ countries around the world.
6. The Buy Nothing Project on Facebook helps people to _____ and reduce waste.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why is it easier to buy things now than it was in the past?
2. What are people protesting against when they participate in Buy Nothing Day?
3. Who was responsible for inventing and promoting the day of protest?
4. Why is it wrong to buy more than we need, according to the activists who support this protest?
5. Who is Buy Nothing Day criticised by? Why?
6. On what day of the week is it celebrated in most countries?
7. Why do some protesters walk around stores with zombie makeup on?
8. What do members of the Buy Nothing Facebook groups do to help reduce waste?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. The police do not yet know whether the victim fell in front of the train or he was _____.
2. On Saturdays, we usually go to a large _____, so we can do all our shopping in one place.
3. The company started producing brightly coloured suitcases, but they didn't _____.
4. The TV series *Game of Thrones* was first _____ in the US in 2011.
5. They rang the restaurant to reserve a table, but when they arrived it was _____.
6. This museum has a lot of beautiful Roman mosaics. Some of them _____ gladiator fights.

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test? (Paper 1, Part 5)

Complete the message. Write one word for each space.

Hi Abigail. Thank you for the link you ¹_____ me about Buy Nothing Day. It sounds really interesting. I'm going to share the link ²_____ my friend Yasmina. She buys so many clothes and only wears them a ³_____ times before throwing them away. It's such a waste of money!

I know that not buying anything for one day ⁴_____ be easy for me, but I'm not so sure about doing it for a longer period. I ⁵_____ with you that we all buy a lot ⁶_____ than we need. I'll let you know how I get on.

Love, Lee

F – Check your pronunciation

One of the four words in each group has a different vowel sound. Which one?

1. buy Friday magazine die
2. should took could thought
3. pushing cutting culture countries
4. waste last campaign save
5. anything planet many empty
6. movement produced through thoughr

G – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Do you think many people buy things that they don't really need?
2. Is this also true of you?
3. If so, why do you think this happens?
4. Is Buy Nothing Day well known in your country?
5. Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
6. Is there anything that you bought recently that you regret buying?

Floriade (B1 -Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Which season of the year do you like best? Why?
2. Do you like flowers? If so, do you have a favourite flower?
3. What kinds of flowers grow in the parks in your town or region?
4. Are there any flower festivals in your country? If so, when? Where?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Floriade is a spring flower festival that takes place in Sydney, Australia.
2. It lasts for about two months.
3. The theme of the festival changes every year.
4. There is a similar festival every spring in the Netherlands.
5. The first Australian Floriade was held in 1988.
6. About 500,000 people come to see the festival.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. In which park is Floriade held?
2. Where in the park are the bulbs and other flowers planted?
3. What is the theme of this year's festival?
4. Why did the first Australian Floriade have Dutch and Aboriginal floral patterns?
5. Why was it held in 1988?
6. How much does it cost to see the festival?
7. Is it only open during the day?
8. How do local schools and community groups contribute to Floriade?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. This coffee is made from a _____ of Brazilian and Colombian coffee beans.
2. The band isn't going to do a concert tour. This concert is a _____ event.
3. Because of the warm weather, all the cherry trees _____ early last year.
4. Our living room was a bit sad, so I got cushions and curtains with a bright geometric _____.
5. The hikers followed a _____ which led them through the woods to the top of the hill.
6. Santo Domingo, founded in 1496, is the oldest European _____ in the Americas.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

It isn't surprising that the Netherlands has ¹_____ named the "Flower Shop of the World", ²_____ it supplies almost 80 per cent of the world's flower bulbs, the ³_____ of which are tulips.

Tulips first arrived in Holland from present-day Turkey around 1593 and became very popular in a ⁴_____ time. As a result of speculation, the price of tulip bulbs began to ⁵_____ steeply in 1634, at one point exceeding the price of gold. This period, known ⁶_____ 'tulip mania', ended suddenly in 1637, when the market collapsed and left some merchants with heavy debts.

F – Write about it

Write about a popular seasonal festival that takes place in your country. Mention:

- what kind of festival it is;
- which season it's held in;
- where it's held;
- what you can see and do there;
- how long it lasts;
- how popular it is.

Guy Fawkes – Britain's Most Famous Traitor (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. How would you define a traitor?
2. Can you name any famous traitors in your country's history?
3. Spies are often considered traitors in one country and heroes in another. Can you name any?
4. Have you ever heard of Guy Fawkes?
5. If so, what do you know about him?

B – Listen and answer

Listen to the two parts of the article (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

Part One

- The Catholic conspirators of November 1605 intended to kill
 - just King James I.
 - just the king and his ministers.
 - everybody present at the time.
- Guy Fawkes, the most notorious of the group, was not brought up as a Catholic.
 - True.
 - False.
 - The article doesn't say.
- The plot was only planned a few weeks in advance.
 - True.
 - False.
 - The article doesn't say.
- Guy Fawkes was caught while he was
 - carrying barrels of gunpowder.
 - about to light the fuse.
 - writing an anonymous letter.
- After their arrest, the conspirators were executed
 - at the Tower of London.
 - by burning.
 - in a very cruel way.

Part Two

- During the reign of Elizabeth I, Catholic priests
 - could hold masses in private houses.
 - held Protestant religious services.
 - were severely punished for holding masses.
- According to historian Antonia Fraser, Guy Fawkes
 - was tall and strong.
 - had a dark brown moustache and a long flowing beard.
 - was small and heavily-built.
- People began to celebrate 5th November with bonfires and fireworks in
 - 1606.
 - the 1650s.
 - the 19th century.
- Every 5th November, around is spent on fireworks.
 - £150 million
 - £20 million
 - £115 million
- Now Guy Fawkes masks are often worn by people protesting against
 - governments.
 - financial institutions.
 - both of these

C – Read and answer

Read the two parts of the article and answer the questions.

- What did the conspirators hope to achieve by blowing up Parliament and killing King James?
- How did Guy Fawkes gain military experience?
- What made government ministers decide to order the House of Lords to be searched?
- How did Guy Fawkes avoid the punishment suffered by the other conspirators?
- What consequences did the plot have for Catholics in England?
- What damage would the explosion have done to the area if the plot had succeeded?
- What has changed in the practice of burning effigies on bonfires on Guy Fawkes Night?
- Why did members of the Occupy movement adopt Guy Fawkes masks to hide their identity?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

- Before the development of railways, goods were transported in _____ on rivers and canals.
- The country's former president was _____ last year in a military coup
- The animal we saw in the park last night was a fox not a cat. It had a _____ tail.
- After cleaning up the garden, we lit a _____ to burn all the old wood and dry leaves.
- Your _____ are your arms and legs.
- Many towns in Europe celebrate their patron saint's day by holding a _____.
- When the volcano erupted, residents were forced to _____ from their homes.
- The robber entered the bank wearing the uniform of a security guard as a _____.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: Fawkes and twelve other conspirators planned to blow up Parliament.

ONE Fawkes was one of thirteen conspirators planning to blow up Parliament.

1. The aim of the conspiracy was to kill King James and his entourage.

AT The conspiracy _____ King James and his entourage.

2. Fawkes's parents were prominent Protestants.

BORN Fawkes _____ prominent Protestant family.

3. Fawkes's involvement in the plot started in April 1604.

BECAME Fawkes _____ in the plot in April 1604.

4. Some conspirators started to doubt whether the plot was a good thing.

SECOND Some conspirators started _____ about the plot.

5. During the first search, they didn't find anything in the building.

WAS During the first search _____ in the building.

6. Fawkes only revealed the names of his co-conspirators after great suffering.

DID Only after great suffering _____ of his co-conspirators.

F – Write about it

Write about a plot to assassinate a public figure in your country's history. Mention:

- who the designated victim was;
- who the conspirators were;
- where/when the events took place;
- the reason for the assassination plot;
- whether it was successful;
- what the consequences were.

As the Electric Vehicle Revolution Slows, Ferrari Enters the Race (C1 -Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about Ferraris?
2. Do you know anyone who drives one?
3. Have you ever travelled in an electric car?
4. If so, what did you think of it?
5. Could you imagine a fully electric Ferrari? Why (not)?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. In its new factory, Ferrari is already transforming some of its cars into fully electric vehicles.
2. Ford Motor Company is losing a large amount of money on its electric vehicles.
3. Analysts say the Ferrari EV is likely to cost less than other luxury EVs on the market.
4. Ferrari's CEO, Benedetto Vigna, says all their production will be electric or hybrid by 2030.
5. Despite the high prices, there are long waiting lists for Ferraris.
6. Vigna, says there are some people who would only buy an electric Ferrari.
7. One of Vigna's concerns is to make sure the engine is silent, like other EV engines.
8. High demand for Ferraris has enabled the company to increase its prices by over 25 per cent.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What does the article tell you about the size, cost and purpose of the new Ferrari factory?

2. What three reasons are given for the difficulties other carmakers are having in going electric?
3. What type of client does Ferrari have in mind for its electric vehicles?
4. What other profitable business is Ferrari in besides the production of cars?
5. What aspects of the Ferrari EV are some Ferrari enthusiasts worried about?
6. Why will the battery life of a Ferrari EV be more important than that of other EVs?
7. How is the manufacture of EVs expected to affect the number of cars produced each year?
8. How does the company make sure there are always long waiting lists for its vehicles.

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Tom bought an electric device for _____ oranges and lemons.
2. Miranda was naturally stylish. She always managed to dress with _____.
3. Fire regulations for high-rise buildings became more _____ after the disaster.
4. In medieval times, _____ to Rome were popular because it was the centre of Christianity.
5. In 2022, gas prices _____ in Europe as a result of the war in Ukraine.
6. Fans waited outside the venue, hoping to _____ of the band as they left.
7. Amy had only been away for two days, but the work had _____ on her desk.
8. I was thinking of buying the coat, but when I saw the _____ I changed my mind.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. Ferrari will soon produce EVs in its _____ (GLEAM) new factory in northern Italy.
2. The car industry's march towards electrification is seen as _____ (EVITABLE).
3. Designers Jony Ive and Marc Newson will work on the EV's _____ (APPEAR).
4. By 2030, most of Ferrari's annual _____ (PUT) will consist of hybrid and electric cars.
5. Vigna, Ferrari's CEO, was previously an _____ (EXECUTE) at STMicroelectronics.
6. This year, Ferrari's stock has a market _____ (VALUE) of about \$75 billion.
7. Ferrari _____ (CONSIST) sells less than the market demands.
8. Vigna says the purchase of a Ferrari is driven by the _____ (EMOTION) part of the brain.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Do you see a car as just a means of transport or also as a status symbol?
2. If you could buy any car you liked, what kind of car would you choose? Why?
3. Do you think a person's choice of car reveals something about their personality?
4. If so, can you give any examples?
5. Do you think cars will one day be replaced by other vehicles, like personal flying machines?

Answers: Buy Nothing Day (A2)

B – Listen and answer

1. late 2. 1992 3. Thanksgiving 4. pig 5. sixty-five 6. save money

C – Read and answer

1. Because we can buy anything online whenever we want.
2. They are protesting against consumerism.
3. A Vancouver-based artist called Ted Dave and the magazine and non-profit organisation *Adbusters*.
4. Because they think it's polluting our culture, our souls and our planet.
5. It's criticised by many businesses because they say it's bad for the economy.
6. On Saturdays.
7. They do it to symbolise the mindlessness of consumerism.
8. Their members give away things they no longer need.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. pushed 2. mall 3. catch on 4. aired 5. empty 6. depict

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. sent 2. with 3. few 4. will 5. agree 6. more

F – Check your pronunciation

1. magazine 2. thought 3. pushing 4. last 5. planet 6. though

Answers: Floriade (B1)**B – Listen and answer**

1. F – It takes place in Canberra. 2. F – It lasts for about one month. 3. T 4. F – In the Netherlands it takes place every ten years. 5. T 6. T

C – Read and answer

1. It's held in Commonwealth Park, in Canberra. 2. They are planted alongside Lake Burley Griffin. 3. It's Art in Bloom. 4. Because the Dutch Embassy was one of the sponsors and the theme was the nation's multiculturalism. 5. Because it was the 75th birthday of the capital, Canberra, and the Bicentenary of European settlement. 6. It doesn't cost anything./It's free to enter. 7. No, there's also NightFest: four nights of after-dark entertainment and horticultural illuminations. 8. They plant 300,000 bulbs and annuals to form a tulip trail through the suburbs.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. blend 2. one-off 3. blossomed 4. pattern 5. trail 6. settlement

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. been 2. as/since/because/considering 3. majority 4. short 5. rise/increase 6. as

Answers: Guy Fawkes – Britain's Most Famous Traitor (B2)**B – Listen and answer**

1. c 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. c 6. c 7. a 8. b 9. a 10. c

C – Read and answer

1. They hoped to inspire a revolt against Protestantism and force a violent change of monarch and government. 2. He fought for Spain against Protestants in the Netherlands. 3. Lord Monteagle told them about the anonymous letter he had received warning him not to attend the opening of Parliament. 4. He fell, or jumped, and died instantly of a broken neck. 5. Laws against Catholics became more severe and advances towards religious tolerance were put back centuries. 6. It would have destroyed the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey and seriously damaged buildings up to 500 metres away. 7. In more recent times, instead of burning effigies of the Pope or Guy Fawkes, people have often burnt effigies of political figures, like Putin. 8. They were inspired by the anarchistic revolutionary in a 1982 comic book series and a 2005 film who wore a Guy Fawkes mask.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. barges 2. overthrown 3. bushy 4. bonfire 5. limbs 6. firework display 7. flee
8. disguise

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. aimed at killing 2. was born into a 3. became involved 4. to have second thoughts
5. nothing was found 6. did Fawkes reveal the names

Answers: As the Electric Vehicle Revolution Slows, Ferrari Enters the Race (C1)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – They're transforming them into hybrid vehicles. They are not producing fully electric vehicles yet. 2. T 3. F – They think it could cost more than any of the other luxury EVs. 4. He says as much as 80 per cent will be. 5. T 6. T 7. F – He says the engine won't be silent. 8. T

C – Read and answer

1. It's nearly twice the size of the Colosseum, it cost 200 million euros to build and it's purpose is to build electric vehicles. 2. The investments needed to produce electric cars are costly, global demand is slowing and there is a growing trade war between China and the West. 3. The wealthy environmentalist. 4. It also has a lucrative corporate sponsorship and merchandise business.

5. They are worried it might not look, handle or sound like a classic Ferrari. 6. Because second-hand Ferraris often sell for a higher price than new Ferraris. If the battery deteriorates over time, this may affect the long-term value of the car. 7. The number isn't expected to increase much at the start. 8. It produces fewer vehicles than the market demands.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. squeezing 2. flair 3. stringent 4. pilgrimages 5. soared 6. catch a glimpse 7. piled up 8. price tag

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. gleaming 2. inevitable 3. appearance 4. output 5. executive 6. valuation
7. consistently 8. emotional