



## 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 <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ me about Buy Nothing Day. It sounds really interesting. I'm going to share the link <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ my friend Yasmina. She buys so many clothes and only wears them a <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ times before throwing them away. It's such a waste of money!

I know that not buying anything for one day <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ be easy for me, but I'm not so sure about doing it for a longer period. I <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ with you that we all buy a lot <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ 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?
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## 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