

English in Mind Second editionLevel 5 Unit 5
Worksheet**THE**  **INDEPENDENT****Think you love shopping?****Lead in****1 Work in pairs or small groups to discuss the following questions:**

Do you like shopping? What do you enjoy/not enjoy about it?

Note down the last three items that you bought. Why did you buy them? Did you really need them?**Reading comprehension****2 Read through the text quickly.****1** What is meant by 'hyper-consumption'? Does Benjamin Barber think it is a good thing?**2** In which paragraphs does the author mention the following?

	para(s)
a buying 'green' products	_____
b TV and films	_____
c bottled water	_____
d capitalism	_____
e basic human needs	_____
f shopping in the past	_____
g developing countries	_____
h hybrid cars	_____

3 Which of the following ideas would Benjamin Barber agree (✓)/disagree (X) with?

	Agree	Disagree
1 It is foolish to think we can go on consuming the world's resources at the current rate.	_____	_____
2 The marketing people want to make shopping enjoyable.	_____	_____
3 Adults should make decisions about what they buy in the same way as children.	_____	_____
4 Many adults buy the same brands as they did when they were children.	_____	_____
5 Hyper-consumption is a worldwide problem.	_____	_____
6 60 years ago people in the West concentrated on buying things they really needed.	_____	_____
7 TV offers us a wide variety of programmes.	_____	_____
8 We should enjoy things in a different way as we get older.	_____	_____
9 Targeting children helps to sell products to a wider market.	_____	_____
10 Buying 'green' products will help to reduce consumerism.	_____	_____
11 In most Western countries we don't need to buy bottled water.	_____	_____
12 Capitalism will necessarily destroy itself.	_____	_____

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Vocabulary (1): words in context

4 The following words are printed in *italics* in the text. Match them to their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 <i>rampant</i> | a) boring everyday task |
| 2 <i>deter</i> | b) makes you think seriously |
| 3 <i>chore</i> | c) tricked |
| 4 <i>frugality</i> | d) simplicity, modesty; not spending much money |
| 5 <i>superfluous</i> | e) discourage, prevent |
| 6 <i>the wherewithal</i> | f) excessive, out of control |
| 7 <i>sobering</i> | g) more than is needed |
| 8 <i>impulse</i> | h) urgent, important |
| 9 <i>hoodwinked</i> | i) sudden strong desire or inclination to act |
| 10 <i>pressing</i> | j) what is necessary for a particular purpose |

5 Find phrases in the article which mean the following:

- is obvious to everybody is _____ (para 1)
- people in charge of designing product brands. _____ (para 1)
- will find it difficult will be _____ (para 2)
- a death which comes sooner than it should an _____ (para 3)
- the moment when a series of small changes brings about a big change. the _____ (para 4)
- desperately/urgently consult with others _____ together (para 5)
- unvaried mixture of poor taste and quality _____ (para 8)
- people like him _____ (para 12)
- powerful people _____ (para 12)

Vocabulary (2): word building – nouns and adjectives

6 Complete the chart below with nouns and adjectives from the text.

Noun (person)	Abstract noun(s)	Adjective
consumer	consumption / (1) <i>consumerism</i>	consumer
fool	foolishness / (2)	foolish
—	(3)	frugal
democrat	democracy	(4)
—	(5)	diverse
youth	(6)	youthful
environmentalist	environment	(7)

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Grammar: use/non-use of articles

7 The following words and phrases are taken from the text. Find them and match them to the rules for using articles below.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1 '... with that of <i>consumers</i> ...' (para 2) | _____ |
| 2 '... in <i>developing countries</i> , ...' (para 2) | _____ |
| 3 '... <i>the Europe and US</i> of 60 years ago ...' (para 2) | _____ |
| 4 ' <i>Hyper-consumerism</i> is ...' (para 13) | _____ |
| 5 '... <i>a major contributor</i> ...' (para 13) | _____ |
| 6 '... he was tempted by <i>a Lexus hybrid</i> ...' (para 14) | _____ |
| 7 '... <i>the hybrid's</i> powerful engine used more petrol ...' (para 14) | _____ |
| 8 '... a magazine advertisement for <i>Lexus hybrids</i> ...' (para 14) | _____ |
| 9 '... implying that <i>the car</i> ...' (para 14) | _____ |
| 10 ' <i>Is capitalism</i> eating itself?' (para 17) | _____ |

'a' is used

a) with singular countable nouns, the first time they are mentioned

Example: 'I watched a wonderful TV programme last night.'

b) with singular countable nouns, when we mean one of many, not the only one

Example: 'My uncle was an important influence in my life.'

'the' is used

c) with singular countable nouns already referred to or known about

Example: 'The TV programme will be repeated tomorrow.' (i.e. the one I mentioned earlier)

'Mum's in the kitchen.' (we know which kitchen; the one in this house)

d) used to point forward to a defining word or phrase

Examples: 'The University of Cambridge' / 'The idea that we are all to blame ...'

e) with singular countable nouns used to stand for a class or category of things

Example: 'The computer has changed our lives in so many ways.'

No article (–) is used

f) before countable plural nouns when talking about them in general (x 3)

g) before uncountable singular nouns when talking about them in general (x 2)

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8 Some of the following sentences contain errors in the use of articles. Decide which are correct (✓) and which are incorrect (X) and find the errors in those that are wrong.

	Correct	Incorrect
1 He went into the house through a garden.	_____	_____
2 Supermarkets are more convenient for most people.	_____	_____
3 Pollution can be a negative effect of the tourism.	_____	_____
4 The love of a good woman will soon cure his depression.	_____	_____
5 A possible solution might be to go by train.	_____	_____
6 The fruit is good for our health.	_____	_____
7 Mobile phone has become an essential part of our lives.	_____	_____
8 Teachers will never be completely replaced by the computers.	_____	_____
9 The views he expressed were widely reported.	_____	_____
10 I never read the romantic fiction.	_____	_____

Discussion

9 Discuss the following questions in pairs.

- 1 What does the author mean by 'a Peter Pan cycle of consumption' (para 1)? Which products can you think of that target both adults and children?
- 2 Do you think it is necessarily a bad thing for adults to enjoy the same products and activities as children? Can there be advantages? Think of examples from your own life.
- 3 Do you agree with Benjamin Barber that we consume too much in the west? What are the consequences of a dramatic fall in consumption?

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