

Functional Skills English

LEVEL 1 READING | MINI TEST 1

This mini test will assess the following coverage and range points:

- 11 - Identify meanings in texts and distinguish between fact and opinion
- 13 - Use reference materials and appropriate strategies (e.g. using knowledge of different word types) for a range of purposes, including to find the meaning of words
- 16 - Recognise vocabulary typically associated with specific types and purposes of texts (e.g. formal, informal, instructional, descriptive, explanatory and persuasive)
- 18 - Use knowledge of punctuation to aid understanding of straightforward texts

You read this article in a magazine.

Think about it!

by Gillian Peak

In the UK we waste £12 billion worth of food a year. We must stop wasting money when we buy food that we do not need and do not use.

Why do we waste so much money on food? One reason is because supermarkets have clever ways to make us buy more. Most of us are easily taken in when we think we are getting a bargain. Supermarkets catch us out with special offers and discounts. But are we really getting value for money? For example, the 'Buy One, Get One Free' offer (which accounts for £50 million worth of sales each year) is pointless unless we need to buy the product in the first place – and do we really need two?

I can never work out if the 'Buy One - Get the Second Half Price' is good value or not. Anyone owning a smartphone can download a discount calculating app to help.

Surely, we should be able to buy our shopping without all this hassle! If supermarkets wrote the cost per kilo or per litre beside **EVERY** item, it would help us know which to buy. We could compare prices. Then 'Three for the Price of Two' might become a less attractive offer. We might also find that a 'Bigger Pack, Better Value' costs **more** than buying two smaller packs.

I have now joined the 65% of people in the UK who are 'clever shoppers'. I make a shopping list and buy only what I need. I go to several local stores instead of doing one big weekly supermarket shop. I often buy cheaper brands and I never shop when hungry. I ignore special offers and money-off vouchers, unless the product is on my list.

The result? My shopping now costs 40% less and so could yours!



1. You may use a dictionary to answer this question.

'Then 'Three for the Price of Two' might become a less attractive offer.'

a) Give one word or phrase to replace 'attractive' that keeps the meaning of this quotation the same.

..... (1)

'Most of us are easily taken in when we think we are getting a bargain.'

b) Give one word or phrase to replace 'bargain' that keeps the meaning of this quotation the same.

..... (1)

2. The main purpose of this article is to:

- A. persuade the reader to support small local stores
- B. encourage the reader to think more about what food they buy
- C. describe what good value 'Buy One, Get One Free' offers are
- D. complain about the high cost of living and the price of food

..... (1)

3. 'If supermarkets wrote the cost per kilo or per litre beside EVERY item.'

Why is 'EVERY' in capitals?

- A. to show it is an abbreviation
- B. to show emphasis
- C. to show it is additional information
- D. to show it is a name

..... (1)

4. Which two of these quotations from the text are examples of informal language?

- A. 'In the UK we waste £12 billion worth of food a year.'
- B. 'Most of us are easily taken in when we think we are getting a bargain.'
- C. 'I go to several local stores instead of doing one big weekly supermarket shop.'
- D. 'But are we really getting value for money?'
- E. 'Surely, we should be able to buy our shopping without all this hassle!'

..... (2)

Mark Scheme

Question number	Answer	Mark
1a	Award 1 mark for correctly identifying an alternative word or phrase for attractive that keeps the meaning of the quotation the same. Accept any other appropriate word or phrase (1)	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
1b	Award 1 mark for correctly identifying an alternative word or phrase for bargain that keeps the meaning of the quotation the same. Accept any other appropriate word or phrase (1)	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
2	B encourage the reader to think more about what food they buy	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3	B to show emphasis	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
4	B 'Most of us are easily taken in when we think we are getting a bargain.' E 'Surely, we should be able to buy our shopping without all this hassle!'	(2)