

# EFL Regional Competition for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Primary School Students

March 30, 2013

## READING COMPREHENSION

Student's CODE : \_\_\_\_\_

Time limit 30 minutes

Total points: \_\_\_\_/20

### Shopping: a curable disease

An American psychiatrist has **launched** trials of a drug to help people who cannot stop spending. Professor Lorrin Koran of Stanford University in California believes he has found a cure for shopaholics.

The news will come as a great **relief** to millions of people suffering from compulsive shopping disorder, a condition which is thought to afflict up to one in 30 American women. Until now, few psychiatrists have **regarded** the problem as worthy of serious medical attention. Koran, however, describes it as a 'hidden epidemic' comparable to compulsive gambling, kleptomania and pyromania.

Since the announcement of his test programme, Koran's office has been inundated with hundreds of calls from shopping addicts keen to become his guinea pigs. The considerable interest in the supposed cure comes as no surprise to Koran, who has been aware of the extent of the problem for many years. But just what type of people suffer from it? According to Koran's research, the majority of shopaholics are women. Most buy items that **improve** their appearance such as clothes, shoes, make-up and jewellery. However, an increasing number of men are also becoming addicted to shopping. They usually collect power tools and car accessories. One man could not stop buying spanners, even though he already had 4.000, while another had bought over 200 different seat covers for his car.

Lorrin Koran's clinic is ideally located in Silicon Valley, the high-tech region near San Francisco, that has seen some of the fastest wealth creation in America's history. Koran believes that a clear **distinction** must be made between recreational shoppers and those who cross the line to addiction. Whereas the former get pleasure from shopping and only occasionally **splash out** on something expensive, typical shopaholics go on a binge at least once a week. They experience urges to buy items that are not needed and then feel sadness and **remorse**. With good reason: they often get into financial difficulties.

'The **thrill** they have is in the purchase and not in the possession,' said Koran, who identifies low self-esteem as a common factor. 'They are filling their life with things because they feel empty inside'.

In the 12-week trial, 24 people will be treated with a drug which restores levels of serotonin. Serotonin carries messages between nerve cells in the brain and deficiencies are thought to lead to compulsive behavior. However, not everyone agrees that compulsive shopping is a disease which needs treating. Lee Smith, a retail consultant, claims that people have always used shopping as a way of cheering themselves up.

**1. Read the text and choose the correct answer.**

1. What has Koran found?

- a) He has found a way for people to spend more money.
- b) He has found a cure for people who cannot stop spending money.
- c) He has discovered a cure for people who do not have any money.

2. Koran compares compulsive shopping disorder to

- a) kleptomania
- b) gambling
- c) gambling, kleptomania and pyromania

3. What is the difference between the recreational shoppers and shopaholics?

- a) recreational shoppers buy things for fun and shopaholics buy things they need
- b) recreational shoppers buy things other people like and shopaholics things they like
- c) recreational shoppers find pleasure in shopping and shopaholics buy things they do not need

4. What is the main problem for the shopaholics?

- a) Getting into financial difficulties
- b) Finding money for shopping
- c) Having too much money for shopping

5. What is the common factor for all shopaholics?

- a) They're very self-confident.
- b) They have low self-esteem.
- c) They have a lot of money.

**1 point for each correct answer \_\_\_\_/5**

**2. Mark the statements true (T) or false (F).**

- a) Not many people suffer from compulsive shopping disorder.
- b) A lot of shopaholics want to be part of the research.
- c) Majority of shopaholics are women.
- d) Men usually collect things such as clothes and accessories.
- e) Koran's clinic is near San Francisco.
- f) Shopaholics feel good after buying things they don't need.
- g) People use shopping as a way of cheering themselves up.

**1 point for each correct answer \_\_\_\_/7**

**3. Match the words in bold from the text with their meaning. Write the letters a to g on the lines.**

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <b>launched</b>    | a) excitement           |
| 2. <b>relief</b>      | b) difference           |
| 3. <b>regarded</b>    | c) started              |
| 4. <b>improve</b>     | d) spend a lot of money |
| 5. <b>distinction</b> | e) regret               |
| 6. <b>splash out</b>  | f) considered           |
| 7. <b>remorse</b>     | g) comfort              |
| 8. <b>thrill</b>      | h) make better          |

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
8 \_\_\_\_\_

**1 point for each correct answer \_\_\_\_/8**

## READING

### KEY

#### 1. Possible answers

1 b; 2 c; 3 c; 4 a; 5 b

#### 2.

a) F

b) T

c) T

d) F

e) T

f) F

g) T

#### 3.

1 c; 2 g ; 3 f ; 4 h; 5 b; 6 d; 7 e; 8 a