

**МЕЖРЕГИОНАЛЬНАЯ ОЛИМПИАДА МПГУ ДЛЯ ШКОЛЬНИКОВ
ПО ИНОСТРАННЫМ ЯЗЫКАМ (АНГЛИЙСКИЙ) I ТУР
21.02.2018 – 07.03.2018**

(9-11 классы)

Reading

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 doctors 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.

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 are close 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.'

For Laura, who has a liking for designed clothes, Koran's trial is a lifeline. As she made her way through an expensive shopping centre in Stanford last week,

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she confessed that she recently spent \$35,000 on fashion accessories, getting herself \$22,000 into debt. Saleswomen at her favourite boutiques assume she is a rich businesswoman rather than a design assistant at a furniture store.

'I've been doing it since I was 12 when my father would give me his credit card,' she said. She has tried giving up her own cards and leaving her handbag at home, but has never managed to stop shopping. Her addiction was the main cause of her split with a boyfriend of nine years. 'It is ruining my life,' she said.

In the 12-week trial, Laura and 23 others 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 behaviour. 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 options to complete the sentences

1. Professor Lorrin Koran claims that
 - a) he has found a cure for people who cannot stop spending
 - b) he has discovered the reason for shopaholic behaviour
 - c) he has received great results of his experiment

2. Recreational buyers are people who
 - a) can't control their budget
 - b) splash out on expensive things
 - c) go shopping from time to time to cheer up

3. Shopaholics get the biggest joy:
 - a) in the process of buying
 - b) while doing window shopping
 - c) wearing new clothes

4. 22 thousand dollars is the sum
 - a) that Laura spent on shopping

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- b) that Laura lent to the bank
- c) that Laura owed to the bank

5. The new drug is going to
- a) stop people from shopping
 - b) make people get the necessary amount of serotonin
 - c) cheer the patients up

2. Are the statements *True, False or Not stated?*

- 1. Shopaholics haven't been considered a serious problem until recently. _____
- 2. Most of shopaholics are men as they collect more expensive things such as cars. _____
- 3. Low self-esteem is the result of extreme shopping. _____
- 4. Laura likes her job as a design assistant. _____
- 5. Some people claim that shopping cannot be referred to diseases. _____

Listening

1. Listen to the speaker(s). Fill in the missing information in the spaces below.

- 1. The moment when Liz tried snowboarding was _____ years ago.
- 2. Good coordination and _____ are the essential skills for a good snowboarder.
- 3. She doesn't have to pay for her _____ as she can get it from her sponsors.
- 4. Liz usually just saves money in _____ to spend it on snowboarding later.
- 5. If you can't go to the Alps, it's nice to visit a local artificial _____

2. Are the statements *True, False or Not stated?*

- 1. According to Liz, if you want to be a snowboarder, you don't need much time to get the necessary skills. _____

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2. Liz has once broken her arm. _____
3. You almost never see girls on the slope because they're afraid of doing tricks. _____
4. Her sponsors never give her money. _____
5. Liz does modelling to improve her job prospects. _____

Vocabulary

1. Choose the correct options to complete the text

There is always a question if it's better to go on a package {tour/journey/travel} or to travel independently? I suppose the answer depends on what kind of person you are. A complicated tour organized by a travel {office/agent/operation} has some advantages. You have an itinerary, which gives you definite departure and {coming/arrival /incoming} dates, and a list of all your destinations. The accommodation may be cheaper if you {book/ reservation/preserve} it in advance. On the other hand, arranging your own trip can be fun. Many students {lift/journey/ hitch-hike} or buy cheap train tickets, and have the bests holidays ever.

2. Put the words into correct places in the text

Performers, courage, genuinely, rate, shiver

Even the most experienced _____ suffer from stagefright. Sometimes this can be so extreme that it almost completely paralyses the person. They stand in the wings, their heart beating at a _____ of 130 or 135 a minute and often seriously think about not going on. Some even find it impossible to remember the performance at all after it is over. Others _____ believe they have completely forgotten all their lines or one in particular. Most feel ill. They sweat and _____ and their stomachs make strange noises. Considering the agonies that even such well-known actors as Dustin Hoffman or Robert de Niro go through, it is surprising that less experienced performers ever have the _____ to walk on stage at all. So next time that you are feeling nervous before a job interview or an oral examination, remember you are in good company. The

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world's top performers know exactly how you feel. They should. They often feel a lot worse.

3. Change the word forms to fill in the gaps

When Ann decided to move house, it was mainly because she was tired of the (neighbour) _____ she lived in. It was crowded, there was a (short) _____ of parking places, and the view from her (stairs) _____ windows was of distant factory chimneys. Luckily she arranged the (sell) _____ of her house very easily, and with a small (lend) _____ from the bank, was able to buy a house in the country. It was an old farm building, which had been (build) _____ and turned into a modern house. After loading all her belongings in a van; Ann managed to get them into the new house (damage) _____. She (furniture) _____ most of the rooms with what she already owned. Even her curtains were the right (long) _____ for the windows and she only had to buy a new (cook) _____ us for the kitchen. It seemed too good to be true. Surely something would go wrong!

Grammar

1. Choose the correct options to complete the text

I had been asking my parents for months to let me {to have/have/having} a mobile phone and they eventually {agreed/ had agreed/ agree} to buy me one. Keen to show it off, I {had taken/ used to take/ took} it with me when I went out with my friends one night. By 10pm no one {had phoned/ would phone/ phoned} me, so I thought I'd impress everyone by making a call. As soon as I got my phone out of the bag I realized I {took/ taken/ had taken} the TV remote control with me.

2. Put the verb into the correct form

Last summer while my parents and I _____(**drive**) to the coast to spend our holiday with some relatives our car _____(**break down**). After we _____ (**be**) on the road for nearly three hours, steam began to pour from the engine and we had to stop. My parents, who know nothing about mechanics, were extremely relieved when another driver pulled over and offered to help.

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When his daughter Eilean stepped out of the passenger seat I _____ (**can/not**) help noticing how incredibly tall she was. We spent the whole time chatting and laughing as if we _____ (**know**) each other for years.

Grammar

1. Complete the sentences with the suitable words

In Britain today, many urban centres _____ suffering from a chronic lack _____ affordable housing. For many first time buyers, the only solution _____ this problem is the microflat, a recent trend in apartments which in some cases measure little more _____ 15 square metres. With just enough room _____ enable the occupier to sleep, eat and wash, microflats represent the ultimate in small-scale city living. _____ of the best publicised designs of microflat was that of young architects Stuart Piercy and Richard Conner, who end up with their idea when they realised they couldn't afford to buy a place to live in _____ capital, _____ the fact that they were earning reasonable salaries. Their 30-square-metre prototype _____ first exhibited in the shop window of Selfridges department store in London _____ January 2002.