

Ejercicios resueltos > Write in your own words

Compulsive shopping - In your own words

A new illness, the Compulsive Buying Disorder, has been diagnosed. Its symptoms are frequent thoughts of shopping, experiencing senseless impulses to purchase unneeded items, and overspending to the extent that it harms relationships or job performance. A recent survey has found that one in twenty American adults buy things they may not even want or need. In today's world of consumerism, where we are constantly bombarded by ads, this is perhaps not unusual. But more surprising is a further finding that runs counter to the conventional and rather stereotyped view that compulsive buying is very much a "woman's disease": men are just as likely as women to suffer from compulsive buying. Gone seem to be the days when women dragged their bored men around shopping malls.

Researchers say that the number of men who indulge in unnecessary shopping has rocketed. Experts claim that past trends and figures may have been unfairly distorted as male obsessive shoppers used to be more reluctant than women to recognize that they have a problem, admit it, and seek help. While women buy more clothing and products that improve appearance, men tend to focus more on gadgets and technical items and can become compulsive collectors.

And help seems to be exactly what the doctor orders for any compulsive shopper who is usually not made any happier by his or her relentless buying. Doctors have concluded that this behaviour is a way for people to try to complete themselves. For some people, being complete is being impeccably dressed or having something new. Instead, medical practitioners encourage those seeking treatment to cultivate non-materialistic aspects of their lives.

In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions. (?)

a) *How does the text describe a compulsive consumer?*

Compulsive consumers are people who often think about buying items that they do not really need and they spend so much money in them that it can affect their relationships or even their job performance. In addition, doctors claim that compulsive consumers do not usually find happiness in their shopping binges.

Ayuda: La respuesta la encontramos principalmente en el primer párrafo pero debemos sintetizar el contenido del texto para describir con precisión a los compradores compulsivos. Éstos son personas que a menudo piensan en comprar, incluso artículos que no necesitan, y gastan grandes cantidades de dinero en ellos, hasta el punto de que puede afectar sus relaciones personales o su trabajo.

Vocabulario: *items*: artículos; *spend*: gastar; *performance*: rendimiento; *binges*: atracones.

b) *What are the differences between male and female compulsive buyers?*

According to the text, the difference between male and female compulsive shoppers is the type of items that they spend their money on. Women spend their money mainly on clothes and products that improve their appearance, while men buy gadgets and technical items that they do not really need.

Ayuda: La respuesta la encontramos en el segundo párrafo que afirma que según los estudios, las mujeres dedican la mayoría de sus compras a productos que ayuden a mejorar su apariencia física y a ropa, mientras que los hombres compran herramientas y artículos técnicos.

Vocabulario: *mainly*: principalmente; *improve*: mejorar; *while*: mientras; *gadgets*: herramientas..