

Black Friday gets nasty

Level 2 • Intermediate

1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

queue
bedlam

bargain
mental

trolley
telly

scuffle
eager

necessities
frustrated

1. If a situation is _____, it is crazy or chaotic. (para 1)
2. A _____ is something that you buy that costs much less than normal. (para 2)
3. A _____ is a line of people waiting for something. (para 2)
4. If you feel _____, you feel annoyed and impatient because you are prevented from achieving something. (para 3)
5. _____ is an informal word for *television*. (para 3)
6. A _____ is a large container with wheels that you push and use for carrying things at a supermarket. (para 4)
7. _____ is a noisy or confusing place or situation. (para 5)
8. A _____ is a small fight that lasts for a short time and is not very violent. (para 6)
9. If you are _____, you are very keen to do something. (para 6)
10. _____ are the basic things that everyone needs. (para 9)

2 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. What time did Louise Haggerty finish shopping in the Black Friday sales?
2. What was Louise Haggerty hoping to buy?
3. How much did she spend on the vacuum cleaner?
4. What time did Andy Blackett and his friends arrive at the Sainsbury's store?
5. How many people were arrested in Manchester?
6. What time did the sale start at PC World?

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Black Friday scuffles: 'I got a Dyson but I don't even know if I want it'

Rupert Neate

28 November, 2014

- 1 "I got a Dyson vacuum cleaner but I don't even know if I want it. I just picked it up," Louise Haggerty, a 56-year-old hairdresser and waitress, said at the end of her trip to the Black Friday sales at one o'clock in the morning. "It was mental in there. It was crazy. It was absolutely disgusting, disgusting."
- 2 Haggerty went to a 24-hour Sainsbury's supermarket in north-east London with a friend. She hoped to buy a bargain flat-screen TV. "But so many people pushed in the queue that we didn't have a chance," she said. "The poor woman who was second in the queue was pushed out by a crowd of youths. She didn't get anything. People were behaving like animals – it was horrible," she said. "I only saw two security guards."
- 3 Frustrated when she was unable to buy a 40" TV reduced from £299.99 to £149.99, Haggerty rushed to pick up a vacuum cleaner, reduced from £319.99 to £159.99. "I don't even know how much it costs; I don't know even know if I'm going to buy it. I just wanted something," she said. "There are lads in there with three, four, five tellys. It's not fair."
- 4 One of those lads was Andy Blackett, 30, who had two trolleys full of bargains. "I got two coffee makers, two tablets, two TVs and a stereo," he said. "I couldn't tell you the prices but I know they're bargains." But his friend Henry Fischer wasn't as successful. "Someone snatched my telly from me – it's because I'm the smaller one."
- 5 Blackett, Fischer and some friends had driven to Sainsbury's at 12.45am after leaving the "bedlam" of a Tesco 24-hour supermarket, where the Black Friday sale started at midnight. "Tesco was scary so we came here instead," Blackett said.
- 6 More than a dozen police officers went to another Tesco store because scuffles began between eager and frustrated shoppers. Customers removed cardboard hoardings that were holding back sale items until midnight. Tesco delayed the sale of its most popular sale items – TVs – for almost an hour until police brought the situation under control. One officer criticized the manager for not providing enough security and suggested the sale should be stopped altogether.
- 7 Police intervened at several other stores just before the doors opened at midnight. Meanwhile, Manchester Police said that at least two people had been arrested at Black Friday sales events. South Wales Police also received a number of calls from staff at Tesco stores after they became "concerned due to the number of people who had turned up to sale events".
- 8 TV sales at the Tesco store began just before 1am. One of the first purchasers of a flat-screen TV was James Alled. He bought two and was already trying to sell one of them to someone further down the queue. "I bought them for £250. I'll sell it to you for £350, £300 cash," he said. Further back in the queue, Christine Ball, 62, wasn't impressed. "I got here at 10.15pm and I'm further back now than when I got here," she said. "These people don't know what a queue is."
- 9 Ball had not heard of the US-inspired Black Friday sales until now, like most of the shoppers. She said she had come out especially to buy her grandson a TV for Christmas. "Not one of those massive ones; just a normal one at £100 or so," she said. In her basket was a pint of milk and a loaf of bread. "Telly, milk and bread – the necessities," she said.
- 10 Mel Mehmet, 23, had been to Black Friday sales in 2013 and had expected queues but she said the atmosphere in Tesco scared her this time. "It's crazy having the sale at midnight – the police must have more important things to do at night than come to sales. We're going to PC World first thing – their sale starts at 8am."

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3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. Louise Haggerty didn't really want to buy a vacuum cleaner.
2. A lot of young people pushed in the queue.
3. There were lots of security guards.
4. Andy Blackett bought seven items.
5. James Alled was trying to make £250 profit by selling a TV he had just bought.
6. The idea of a Black Friday sales event originated in the UK.

4 Find the word

Find the following words and phrases in the text.

1. a two-word noun phrase meaning *someone who looks after a place so that no one causes damage or steals anything* (para 2)
2. a verb meaning *quickly take something away from someone* (para 4)
3. an adjective meaning *frightening* (para 5)
4. a noun meaning *a large board used for advertising* (para 6)
5. a verb meaning *become involved in a situation in order to try to stop or change it* (para 7)
6. a noun meaning *a person who buys something* (para 8)
7. an adjective meaning *very large* (para 9)
8. a two-word noun phrase meaning *at the very beginning of the day* (para 10)

5 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make phrases from the text.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. flat-screen | a. maker |
| 2. vacuum | b. event |
| 3. 24-hour | c. cleaner |
| 4. sales | d. guard |
| 5. coffee | e. TV |
| 6. security | f. supermarket |

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6 Word-building

Complete the table using words from the text.

	noun	adjective
1.	scare	
2.	disgust	
3.	success	
4.	frustration	
5.	concern	
6.	craze	

7 Discussion

Would you go to a Black Friday sales event? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Key words

1. mental
2. bargain
3. queue
4. frustrated
5. telly
6. trolley
7. bedlam
8. scuffle
9. eager
10. necessities

2 Find the information

1. one o'clock in the morning
2. a flat-screen TV
3. £159.99
4. 12.45am
5. at least two
6. 8am

3 Comprehension check

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. F
6. F

4 Find the word

1. security guard
2. snatch
3. scary
4. hoarding
5. intervene
6. purchaser
7. massive
8. first thing

5 Two-word phrases

1. e
2. c
3. f
4. b
5. a
6. d

6 Word-building

1. scary
2. disgusting
3. successful
4. frustrated
5. concerned
6. crazy