

## READING B2

Read the text and complete the chart below with a word from the list that comes after the text. Every word can only be used **ONCE**. There are **NINE** words that you don't need to use. Question 0 has been answered as an example.

### ONE WOMAN IN FIVE IS A SHOPAHOLIC

Easy credit and peer pressure push millions to buy (0) \_\_\_\_\_ their means, causing spiral of depression.

Posh and Becks do it together. Liz Hurley does it alone and Madonna did it while nine months pregnant.

Retail therapy has become one of Britain's most pleasurable leisure (1) \_\_\_\_\_. But the percentage of the population suffering from the serious medical condition of shopping addiction is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ crisis point, overtaking the number of drug and drink addicts in the UK combined.

Experts believe 10 per cent of the population, and possibly 20 per cent of women, are manic, compulsive shoppers. Most shopaholics are seriously in (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and the condition has led to family break-ups, depression, homelessness and even suicide.

Known as omniomania, the condition has been known to psychiatrists since the early 1900s but (4) \_\_\_\_\_ now is it almost on an epidemic scale. A European Union report recently revealed that up to half of 14 to 18-year-old girls in Scotland, Italy and Spain (5) \_\_\_\_\_ symptoms of shopping addiction.

Jim Goudie, a consumer psychologist at Northumbria University, said the stigma of being a shopaholic, and the fact that so few people take the condition seriously, may be (6) \_\_\_\_\_ an even higher number of sufferers.

"Our figures would correlate to (7) \_\_\_\_\_ carried out in the US showing a similar percentage of the population there suffering from shopping problems. But with some people feeling that being a shopping addict is so (8) \_\_\_\_\_ silly, the true statistics could be much higher.

'One of the reasons behind this sudden (9) \_\_\_\_\_ could be that shopping has never been so attractive. Shopping centres are beautiful these days, absolute wonderlands. Store cards are offered at the till and people can obtain handfuls of credit cards with relative (10) \_\_\_\_\_.'" Adapted from © The Observer

ACTIVITIES	EASE	ONLY	RISE
BEYOND	EXPERTS	PASSING	SHOWED
BY	GETTING	POINTING	STUDY
COMFORTING	INCREDIBLY	REACHING	TIME
DEBT	MASKING	RESEARCH	TRYING

0.	BEYOND
1.	
2.	
3.	

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4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

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**Task 2 – One Woman in Five is a Shopaholic**

<b>0</b>	<b>BEYOND</b>
1	ACTIVITIES
2	REACHING
3	DEBT
4	ONLY
5	SHOWED

6	MASKING
7	RESEARCH
8	INCREDIBLY
9	RISE
10	EASE