



### **Black Friday and Buy Nothing Day**

Black Friday is the day after the American holiday of Thanksgiving, which is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. Because it is a holiday in the United States, it has long been a popular day for consumers to start shopping for Christmas. Over the last 20 years big retailers have started to offer discounts and bargains on this day, and it has become more and more popular. The idea of Black Friday has also spread around the world. Many of us love to get a bargain, but some feel that events like Black Friday encourage people to buy things that they don't really need and can't afford. Many people seem to lose control of both their spending and their tempers. It is easy to find video online of customers physically fighting each other over bargains. It is also argued that Black Friday is bad for small shopkeepers, who cannot afford to offer the kinds of price cuts that the big companies can.

Instead of taking the opportunity to buy as much as possible on Black Friday, you could do the opposite and buy absolutely nothing. Since 1997, Buy Nothing Day has been held on the same day as Black Friday. The rules are simple. Just don't buy anything at all for 24 hours. Many people are surprised how difficult this actually is. The aim is to make people think more about their spending and to make better decisions about what they buy and where they buy it from.

As well as spending less and not buying unnecessary items, Buy Nothing Day aims to raise awareness of how to be a more ethical consumer. For example, you can avoid buying 'fast fashion', that is, very cheap clothes that are worn a few times before being thrown away. Or you could decide not to automatically upgrade your mobile at the end of a contract. These kinds of decisions can help to protect the environment as well as saving you money.

Some people carry out protests at shopping centres. Others avoid the shops completely and go for a walk in nature instead. Another alternative is to donate winter coats throughout November and anyone who needs one can come and take one on Buy Nothing Day.

Adapted from: [www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish/magazine/black-friday-and-buy-nothing-day](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish/magazine/black-friday-and-buy-nothing-day)

#### **1. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. DO NOT COPY LITERALLY FROM THE TEXT (2 puntos)**

- a. Why do some people think Black Friday is out of control?
- b. According to the text, what should an ethical consumer probably not buy?

#### **c. CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER (1 punto):**

To celebrate Buy Nothing Day, the rules are that you

- a. don't buy anything at all.
- b. only buy from small shopkeepers.
- c. think carefully about what you are buying.

#### **d. ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE AND COPY A SENTENCE FROM THE TEXT THAT SUPPORTS OR CONTRADICTS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT (1 punto):**

Last year, people in the UK spent more on Black Friday than in some other countries in Europe

#### **2. MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR DEFINITIONS (1 punto)**

- 1. Bargain
- 2. Shopkeeper
- 3. Consumer
- 4. Avoid

- a. a person who buys goods or services for their own use.
- b. to prevent something from happening or to not allow yourself to do something.
- c. something on sale at a lower price than its true value.
- d. a person who owns and manages a small shop.



**3. COMPLETE THE SECOND SENTENCE SO THAT IT MEANS THE SAME AS THE FIRST ONE (2 puntos).**

a. Black Friday is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.

People ..... on the fourth Thursday of November.

b. Big retailers have started to offer discounts and bargains on this day. This has become more and more popular worldwide.

Big retailers have started ..... worldwide.

c. 'Susan, don't buy anything at all for 24 hours!' her mother said.

Susan's mother ....., for 24 hours.

d. I have spent too much money on Black Friday and now I have no money left.

If you ..... money left.

**4. WRITE A TEXT ABOUT ONE OF THESE TOPICS (80-100 WORDS) (3 puntos).**

1. Describe a funny/embarrassing situation you have experienced in a shop.

2. You have spent a lot of money on Black Friday. Write an e-mail to your best friend to tell him/her the things you have bought.



**UNIVERSIDAD  
DE LA RIOJA**

**Prueba de Acceso a la Universidad para mayores de 25 años**  
**Curso Académico: 2020-2021**  
**ASIGNATURA: LENGUA EXTRANJERA: INGLÉS**  
**TIEMPO DE REALIZACIÓN: 1 HORA**

**CRITERIOS ESPECÍFICOS DE CORRECCIÓN:**

En los ejercicios en general se valorará la capacidad del alumno para comprender globalmente las ideas contenidas en el texto.

De manera específica en cada apartado se valorarán los siguientes aspectos:

Pregunta 1 – En este apartado se valorará especialmente la comprensión global del texto. (4 puntos)

Pregunta 2– En este apartado se valorarán los conocimientos léxicos del alumno. (1 punto)

Pregunta 3- Conocimiento y uso de la lengua (2 puntos).

Pregunta 4 – En este apartado se valorarán los siguientes aspectos (3 puntos):

- Corrección morfosintáctica.
- Riqueza léxica.
- Coherencia y cohesión del texto (empleo de conectores y organización del texto).
- Aportación de ideas.