

LESSON 6: Activity 1

Teacher resource sheet: Sales spending tips

Tips for avoiding overspending when shopping during the sales.

Prioritise your spending:

It is easy to be tempted by sales racks and special offers. Make sure you can afford the things you need before you think about spending on the things that you want (i.e. the non-essential items).

Start budgeting:

Something is only a good deal if you need it and were planning to buy it before the sale. Plan spending before you shop, then prioritise items that you need first and focus your shopping around those.

Use cash/debit cards where you can, and use your credit card sparingly:

If you are going to use your credit card, think about how much you are spending on it first. It is easy to overspend when you don't have to repay it immediately. However, your bill will have to be repaid eventually, and interest can mount up quickly.

Do some research online before you shop:

Many of the larger department stores have good websites where you can view the sale items before going into the shop. This may help you to reduce "impulse buys" of things you don't really need. Many sites now let you order and pay for items online as well so you can avoid the temptation of the sales altogether.

Track spending while you shop:

You can use the calculator on your phone to keep tabs on what you are actually spending if you are shopping in more than one place. This way you can track your spending on the go rather than getting a nasty surprise when the next credit card bill arrives.

Use any gift vouchers that you can towards the cost of the item you are buying:

If you received gift vouchers for Christmas see if you can put them towards the costs of your shopping so you have less to pay at the till.