

Death of the British High Street

If you are considering a visit to Britain you might like to do some shopping. Where better to do this than in a small quaint market town. Visitors however, might be surprised by what they see...

Gone are the days of seeing a typical British High Street bustling with shoppers. Today people visit out-of-town shopping centres and supermarkets. The result has caused the gradual death of the typical British High Street.

People's shopping habits have changed. They no longer shop in butchers, bakers or greengrocers. Today everyone shops in supermarkets, as it's far quicker and easier, with everything in one place.

Other reasons why so many shops have closed in High Streets are the high council tax charges, high rents demanded by unscrupulous landlords and the rapid rise of online shopping. The result has seen thousands of small traditional shops and pubs close, taken over by the likes of Starbucks and McDonald's.

These days nearly 60p of every £1 is spent in supermarkets rather than in the High Street. The result is High Streets are now full of betting shops, takeaway fast food outlets, charity shops, Eastern European stores and some convenience stores run by the 'Big Four' supermarkets.

Today, one in three shops in the High Street lays empty. Some urban centres have become 'ghost towns' because of the lack of shoppers. This deters potential shoppers and costs local jobs. It is also an unwelcome site for any visitor.

High Street giants to have closed and disappeared from the High Street in Britain recently include; HMV (Music), Blockbuster (Videos & DVDs) JJB Sports (Sportswear) and Woolworth (Various).

SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about High Streets. What are they? Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name three shops that have closed.
- 2) Where is nearly 60p of every £1 spent?
- 3) There has been a rapid rise of what?
- 4) Give two reasons why High Street shops have closed.
- 5) What does 'quaint' mean?

Student B questions

- 1) What is 'an unscrupulous landlord'?
- 2) What has replaced small traditional shops?
- 3) What does 'bustling' mean?
- 4) What is 'a greengrocers shop'?
- 5) What is 'a butchers shop'?

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. Divide the board into three columns! Write as many words as you can to do with '**Butchers - Bakers - Greengrocers**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

Death of the British High Street - *In pairs* choose three things from the article.

Write them below.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three similar ideas of your own. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs, think of three advantages of shopping online, of shopping in a supermarket, of shopping in a local high Street. Write down your ideas. Discuss together. *One-two mins.*

The teacher will choose some students to read out their suggestions to the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Where do you go shopping?
- 3) When was the last time you visited a real butchers shop, a bakers shop or greengrocers shop?
- 4) Is your High Street changing? How?
- 5) Have shopping habits changed in your town/city?
- 6) Are unscrupulous landlords forcing many small businesses to close in your town/city?
- 7) Which fast food outlets do you visit?
- 8) Do you like to visit convenience stores?
- 9) Name the four large convenience stores in your town/city.
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the BBC North TV studio. Today's interview is: *The death of the British High Street. 10 mins.*

- 1) A tourist.
- 2) A local shopper.
- 3) A local shopkeeper.
- 4) A large local supermarket manager.

The teacher will choose some groups to role play their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. You are in a bar. Start a conversation about *the death of the British High Street. 5 mins.*

SPEAKING - GAME

Form a circle – 'I went to the High Street and I bought...' Go round the circle, repeat the previous words, adding a new word. Forget a word and you are eliminated. *10 mins. .*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

<p><i>The death of the British High Street – How might it be saved?</i></p>

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you shop online?
- 3) Do you have a Starbucks and McDonald's in your town/city?
- 4) Do you have many charity shops in your town/city?
- 5) Is the centre of your town/city sometimes like 'a ghost town'?
- 6) Which High Street giants have closed in your town/city recently?
- 7) Are many pubs/bars closing in your town/city due to high rents?
- 8) Have your shopping habits changed over the years? Explain.
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

Death of the British High Street – 25th February 2013

GAP FILL: READING

Death of the British High Street

If you are considering a visit to Britain you might like to do some shopping. Where better to do this than in a small (1)___ market town. Visitors however, might be surprised by what they see...

Gone are the days of seeing a (2)___ British High Street bustling with shoppers. Today people visit (3)___ shopping centres and supermarkets. The result has caused the (4)___ death of the typical British High Street.

People's shopping (5)___ have changed. They no longer shop in (6)___, bakers or (7)___. Today everyone shops in supermarkets, as it's far quicker and (8)___, with everything in one place.

butchers / typical / greengrocers / gradual / quaint / habits / out-of-town / easier

Other reasons why so many shops have closed in High Streets are the high council tax charges, high rents demanded by unscrupulous landlords and the rapid rise of online shopping. The result has seen thousands of small (1)___ shops and pubs close, taken over by the likes of Starbucks and McDonald's.

These days nearly 60p of every £1 is spent in supermarkets rather than in the High Street. The result is High Streets are now full of betting shops, takeaway fast food outlets, (2)___ shops, Eastern European stores and some (3)___ run by the 'Big Four' supermarkets.

Today, one in three shops in the High Street lays empty. Some (4)___ centres have become 'ghost towns' because of the lack of shoppers. This deters (5)___ shoppers and costs local (6)___. It is also an (7)___ site for any visitor.

High Street (8)___ to have closed and disappeared from the High Street in Britain recently include; HMV (Music), Blockbuster (Videos & DVDs) JJB Sports (Sportswear) and Woolworth (Various).

urban / potential / jobs / traditional / giants / unwelcome / convenience stores / charity

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Death of the British High Street

(1)___ you are considering a visit to Britain (2)___ might like to do some shopping. Where better to do this than in a small quaint market town. Visitors however, might be surprised (3)___ what they see...

Gone are the days of seeing (4)___ typical British High Street bustling with shoppers. Today people visit out-of-town shopping centres (5)___ supermarkets. (6)___ result has caused the gradual death (7)___ the typical British High Street.

People's shopping habits have changed. They no longer shop (8)___ butchers, bakers or greengrocers. Today everyone shops in supermarkets, as it's far quicker and easier, with everything in one place.

if / of / in / by / the / you / and / a

(1)___ reasons why so many shops have closed in High Streets are the high council tax charges, high rents demanded by unscrupulous landlords and the rapid rise of online shopping. The result has seen thousands of small traditional shops and pubs close, taken over by the likes of Starbucks and McDonald's.

(2)___ days nearly 60p of every £1 is spent in supermarkets (3)___ (4)___ in the High Street. The result is High Streets are now full of betting shops, takeaway fast food outlets, charity shops, Eastern European stores and some convenience stores run by the 'Big Four' supermarkets.

Today, one in three shops in the High Street lays empty. (5)___ urban centres have become 'ghost towns' (6)___ of the lack of shoppers. This deters potential shoppers and costs local jobs. It is (7)___ an unwelcome site for any visitor.

High Street giants to have closed and disappeared (8)___ the High Street in Britain recently include; HMV (Music), Blockbuster (Videos & DVDs) JJB Sports (Sportswear) and Woolworth (Various).

some / also / from / than / these / because / other / rather /

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Death of the British High Street

If _____ a visit to Britain you might like to do some shopping. Where better to do this than in a small quaint market town. Visitors however, might be surprised by what they see...

_____ seeing a typical British High Street bustling with shoppers. Today people visit out-of-town shopping centres and supermarkets. The result has caused the gradual death of the typical _____.

People's shopping habits have changed. They no longer shop in butchers, _____. Today everyone shops in supermarkets, as it's far quicker and easier, with everything in one place.

Other reasons why so many shops have closed in High Streets are the high council tax charges, high rents demanded by unscrupulous landlords and _____ online shopping.

The result has seen thousands of small traditional shops and pubs close, taken over by the likes of _____.

These days nearly 60p of every £1 is spent in supermarkets rather than in the High Street. The result is High Streets are now full of betting shops, takeaway _____, charity shops, Eastern European stores and some convenience stores run by the 'Big Four' supermarkets.

Today, one in three shops in the High Street lays empty. _____ have become 'ghost towns' because of the lack of shoppers. This deters potential shoppers and costs local jobs. It is also an _____ any visitor.

High Street giants to have closed and disappeared from the High Street _____ include; HMV (Music), Blockbuster (Videos & DVDs) JJB Sports (Sportswear) and Woolworth (Various).

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, write as many words about **the High Street** as you can! *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The High Street _____
- 2) I shop _____
- 3) These days _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Shopping habits in my town/city**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) quaint
- 2) typical
- 3) out-of-town
- 4) gradual
- 5) habits
- 6) butchers
- 7) greengrocers
- 8) easier

ANSWERS

- 1) small
- 2) charity
- 3) convenience stores
- 4) urban
- 5) potential
- 6) jobs
- 7) unwelcome
- 8) giants

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) typical
- 2) gradual
- 3) supermarkets
- 4) might
- 5) quaint
- 6) bustling
- 7) habits
- 8) shopping
- 9) butchers
- 10) bakers

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) greengrocers
- 12) potential
- 13) quicker
- 14) disappeared
- 15) unscrupulous
- 16) traditional
- 17) takeaway
- 18) charity
- 19) convenience
- 20) urban

Death of the British High Street – *25th February 2013*