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School: Collège Moayé Dhan Bingerville **School Year**: 2025-2026

English Council **Duration**: 2h30min

DRENA

ENGLISH COMMON TEST TLE

PART ONE: reading for comprehension (08 points)

Americans Are Changing Their Living Styles

There is no question that American consumers are troubled by the ever growing dangers in the world as it threatens the very foundation of the American way of life. They are also made anxious by the political hubbub, fake news posturing and other distractions that are taking their leaders away from their much more important task of governing and ruling this great nation and setting it on the right course to grow the economy and help American citizens prosper.

In the face of these struggles, Americans are finding solace at the bar, which not only helps them escape from their worries temporarily but also provides much-needed connection with others as they share drinks at the pub.

Encouraged by cheaper gas, Americans are getting into their cars and traveling more, going to new places, seeing new sights and just enjoying the road travel experience. This may also be a reflection of the problems confronted in air travel, which has gotten plenty of press lately.

As for me, when I need to travel places I can reach by car in less than a day, I will always opt for a road trip, rather than undergoing the trials and tribulations of flying. I suspect there are many others that share this view.

Internet shopping is replacing the hassles of in-store shopping, no question of that. It is not only that online gives access to more products, often at a cheaper price, but online saves huge amounts of time when people need a specific item.

Going to the store or the mall, therefore, becomes a discretionary diversion undertaken primarily when people want a *shopping experience*, as opposed to a *buying experience*, in which online often proves to be the best option. **Amazon's record-breaking Prime Day** on July 12, which saw sales rise 60% over last year's, demonstrates just how much shoppers value the comfort and ease of shopping electronically without ever having to cross the threshold of a retail store.

The fact that sales in used merchandise stores are growing so rapidly is not necessarily a reflection of cash-strapped customers looking for bargains, though surely that plays a role. But I believe it is far more a reflection of consumers turning away from the pursuit of a materialistic culture where one is defined by the things one has. Rather they are chasing more meaningful lifestyle experiences.

In buying previously owned things, people acknowledge that repurposing, reusing, and seeking out used items is a lifestyle that they embrace. The "Tiny House" movement with its rallying cry "Tiny House-Big Living," is more than just a cable television show. It is a lifestyle that more Americans are pursuing, if not by actually living tiny, but thinking that way. And they start by ridding themselves of all the extraneous junk they have collected. When they actually need something, they increasingly are looking to gently used goods as a better solution, both for their pocketbook and the planet.

Adapted from https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbes-finds/2018/06/23/

COMPREHENSION CHECK

A/ Vocabulary: *read the text and find in it words or expressions that correspond to the synonyms or definitions below at the indicated lines. Do like the examples*: 1- consumers.

1- People who buy things with the objective of eating or using them (L1)
2- Menaces (L2)
3- People living in a country legally (L5)
4- Comfort, consolation (L5)
5- Make the choice of (L12)
6- Sufferings and ill-treatments (L13)
7- Troubles, unwanted annoyances (L15)
8- Very small (L30)
9- Not essential (L31)

B/ Comprehension questions*: read the text again and decide if the following statements are TRUE or FALSE. Do like the example*: 9-TRUE.

1- American traders are facing difficulties.
2- American consumers are also worried by the pollical noise and instability.
3- The American leaders are really focused on their mission of governing.
4- American people find comfort in pubs, and night clubs.
5- Travelers don't enjoy their road trip.
6- On July 12th, stores' sales decreased.
7- Consumers like to remain in their materialistic style.
8- People dislike buying used objects.
9- Americans are looking for a reduced lifestyle.

PART TWO: language use

Task: *choose the correct form of the verb between brackets to express past habits that no longer exist. Do like the example*: 1- would.

1- When I was very young, I (**used to/ would**) always go shopping on Saturdays.
2- American people (**used to / would**) live above their salaries.
3- At primary school, big boys (**used to/ would**) wrench youngers' bread.
4- As a kid, my grandmother (**would/ used to**) tell me short stories every day, but today I'm older.
5- Formerly, Americans (**used to/ would**) buy more expensive things, but today they are seeking for cheaper objects.

PART THREE: writing

You ordered a sophisticated computer online from a company in the United States. The delivery is taking too much time. You write a letter to the customer's office regarding the delaying delivery to express your feelings. In your letter:

- Say why you are writing the letter,
- Talk about your complaint,
- Claim for the cancellation of the order with a total refund. (**20-25 lines**)