



## READING

### Black Friday

The day after Thanksgiving has become America's biggest shopping day. Closed all day on Thursday, shopping centres all across the nation open early on Friday. Some of them open at 12:01 Friday morning, while others open at 4 a.m. Some "**sleepyhead**" shopping centres, like Target this year, don't open their doors on Friday until 6 a.m. From Friday to the day before Christmas, this is the season when businesses make nearly 25 per cent of what they earn in a year. This season puts many businesses "in the black", that is, they make the money they need for the year.

Reporters from local TV stations interview people who sleep in tents in front of the shops a day or two before the doors open on Friday. These people patiently wait in queue to get products that are 50 per cent cheaper or more.

"Oh, we have fun," said one of the persons queuing. "We sometimes bring games to play, we watch TV and order lots of pizza, and we often meet interesting people. And, most important of all, we save a lot!" The problem, of course, is that only a very small number of products have big reductions in their prices. Apart from a few big discounts, each shop has other things that are reduced from 10 to 50 per cent, saving shoppers from \$10 to \$400 per item, and so Americans want to go shopping.

Not all Americans enjoy shopping. Reverend William Graham wants to change Black Friday's name. "We want to call it *Remember Jesus Friday*. People should start the season with the right attitude. Christmas has become a Season of Shopping. We want to make it a Season of Giving. And we don't mean giving material things. We mean giving your back, your mind, and your hands. Help an old lady clean up her house. Teach a kid how to read. Visit sick people in the hospital or in nursing homes. Give food to the Red Cross. Celebrate Christmas by remembering Jesus and forgetting Santa Claus."

### B) Read the text above and choose the correct option.

1. According to the text, the expression "sleepyhead" refers to shops that ...

- a) open later than others
- b) open early in the morning
- c) don't open until late in the morning

2. On these days some businesses make ... for the rest of the year.

- a) half the money
- b) enough money
- c) nearly all the sales

3. Which of these sentences is TRUE?

- a) Most products are reduced nearly half price
- b) In general, most discounts in prices are quite big
- c) Just a few selected products have large discounts



4. Reverend William Graham thinks shopping so much at this time of the year ...

- a) is not right
- b) is the right attitude
- c) needs a new name

5. According to the text, Black Friday is ...

- a) the Friday before Christmas
- b) the beginning of a shopping period
- c) an important holiday in The United States

### Archaeologists identify the mummy of a lost Egyptian queen

Egyptian archaeologists announced on Wednesday that they have identified a mummy discovered in 1903 as that of Queen Hatshepsut (hat-shep-soot), Egypt's most powerful female pharaoh. The mummy was originally found in the Valley of the Kings, a sacred burial site for kings and powerful nobles located on the west bank of the Nile River in Egypt. Although the mummy was discovered more than a century ago, it remained in a tomb until this past spring, when it was brought to the Cairo Museum for testing.

#### A Powerful Ruler's Legacy

Queen Hatshepsut was the only woman to rule ancient Egypt while the kingdom was at the height of its wealth and power, from about 1502 to 1482 B.C. Of all the female pharaohs—including Cleopatra and Nefertiti—Hatshepsut's reign was the longest and most successful. While in power, she established trade routes and built hundreds of monuments and temples throughout Egypt. Despite her prosperous reign, both her mummy and her legacy were virtually erased from Egyptian history. Many historians believe that Tuthmose III, Hatshepsut's stepson, destroyed records and monuments bearing her name. It may have been his revenge. It is believed that she stole the throne from him. Finding the mummy of this powerful queen may provide details about an important part of Egyptian history.

**A) Read the text above and decide if the statements below are True or False.**

1. **TRUE / FALSE** The mummy was found in Egypt on Wednesday.
2. **TRUE / FALSE** Hatshepsut's mummy was found near the River Nile.
3. **TRUE / FALSE** The mummy has been in a museum since it was discovered.
4. **TRUE / FALSE** She was the only queen of Egypt.
5. **TRUE / FALSE** She built all her temples in the Valley of the Kings.
6. **TRUE / FALSE** Historians don't know many things about her.
7. **TRUE / FALSE** Tuthmose III killed the queen.
8. **TRUE / FALSE** Her mummy may help historians to understand what happened.



### Active Villagers

Residents of a small Welsh-speaking community have clubbed together to buy the post office and shop, ten years after buying the pub.

The people of Llithfaen, Caernarfonshire were determined to prevent their village losing its focal point. Ten years ago they paid £40,000 for the pub, called the Victoria, and now they have helped to keep the shop open. Most of the cost, £19,500, was met by the local council and a European Union grant, but the villagers needed to raise a further £6,000 to buy the shop from the owner who is retiring.

John Jones, chairman of the community committee, said: “We went around every house and came back with £500 more than we needed. The post office and the pub are essential to the life of the village. There are no other amenities.

“We were not prepared to stand by and let the heart and soul be ripped out of our community. No one else was going to help us so we decided to buy them ourselves.” Llithfaen had a population of 600 but that halved when nearby granite quarries were closed. The primary school was shut because of the population decline but the locals turned it into a leisure centre and youth club.

The shop has been leased to Ffion Medi Llywelyn, 24, who lives in the village with her husband, Dillon. She said: “There is a wonderful community spirit here.”

### C) Read the text above and choose the correct option.

#### 1. The Llithfaen Post Office ...

- a) closed ten years ago
- b) has been saved by the local people
- c) has now closed

#### 2. The shop has been bought ...

- a) by the local council
- b) for £ 40.000
- c) with the help of the people who live in the area

#### 3. The shop was going to close ...

- a) because of a decision by the European Union
- b) because the owner needed the money
- c) because the owner thought he was too old to run the shop

#### 4. £ 500 ...

- a) was paid by every person in the village
- b) was paid by the owner of the pub
- c) was the amount of money the villagers still had after the post office was bought

#### 5. Llithfaen no longer has ...

- a) a school
- b) a leisure center
- c) a pub



### The Ig Nobel Prizes

Organized by the scientific humor magazine Annals of Improbable Research (AIR), the Ig Nobel Prizes are presented by a group that includes genuine Nobel Laureates at a ceremony at Harvard University's Sanders Theater.

A parody of the Nobel Prizes, the Ig Nobel Prizes are given each year in early October — around the time the recipients of the genuine Nobel Prizes are announced — for ten achievements that “first make people laugh, and then make them think”. All prizes are awarded for real achievements (except for three in 1991 and one in 1994 due to an erroneous press release).

This is a list of some Ig Nobel Prize winners from 1993 to the present day:

**1993. Literature** – Presented to E. Topol, R. Califf, F. Van de Werf, P. W. Armstrong, and their 972 co-authors, for publishing a medical research paper which has one hundred times as many authors as pages. The authors are from the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

**2000. Chemistry** – Presented to D. Marazziti, A. Rossi, and Giovanni B. Cassano of the University of Pisa, Italy, and H. S. Akiskal of the University of California, San Diego, for their discovery that, biochemically, romantic love may be indistinguishable from having severe obsessive-compulsive disorder.

**2004. Chemistry** – Presented to The Coca-Cola Company of Great Britain, for using advanced technology to convert liquid from the River Thames into Dasani, a brand of bottled water, which for precautionary reasons has been made unavailable to consumers.

**2006. Peace** – H. Stapleton of Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, for inventing an electromechanical teenager repellent, a device that makes annoying high-pitched noise designed to be audible to teenagers but not to adults; and for later using that same technology to make telephone ringtones that are audible to teenagers but probably not to their teachers.

**2009. Literature** – Ireland's police service for writing and presenting more than 50 traffic tickets to a Polish individual, by the name of “Prawo Jazdy”. Mr. “Jazdy” was widely thought to be the most frequent driving offender in Ireland, until an investigation uncovered the fact that Prawo Jazdy is the Polish term for “Driving License”.

#### D) Read the text above and choose the correct option.

1. The Ig Nobel Prizes ...

- a) are awarded for making people think before they laugh
- b) were mistakenly awarded four times
- c) have two different achievement categories



2. The Ig Nobel Prizes are given ...

- a) only by people who have won the Nobel prize
- b) by previous Nobel prize winners as well as other people
- c) only by previous Nobel prize winners who work at Harvard

3. The 1993 literature prize was given for ...

- a) managing to include authors from so many countries in a publication
- b) publishing one hundred pages more than authors
- c) publishing a research paper with far more authors than pages

4. Danasi ...

- a) can only be bought in GB
- b) should be drunk with precaution
- c) cannot be bought

5. According to the text, Prawo Jazdy ...

- a) is an Irish driving offender
- b) is a terrible driver
- c) is a Polish expression

**ANSWER KEY: A)**    1. FALSE    2. TRUE    3. FALSE    4. FALSE  
                                 5.FALSE    6. TRUE    7.FALSE    8. TRUE

**B) 1. A    2. B    3. C    4. A    5. B**

**C) 1. B    2. C    3. C    4. C    5. A**

**D) 1. B    2. B    3. C    4. C    5. C**

**Source:** [www.test-english.com](http://www.test-english.com)