

Warmer: Guess the topic

Look at the words below, which are related to the topic of this lesson. Try to guess the topic, and discuss the meaning of the words with a partner:


Task 1: Vocabulary – Online auctions

Use some of the words in the box above to fill in the missing words in the text below:

[1]_____ websites such as eBay allow people to sell items online to the person who offers the most money. A seller can create an item [2]_____ which is a text which has information about the thing they wish to sell. This should state whether the item is new or has been [3]_____ before. If a buyer wishes to purchase it, they can [4]_____ on it in an auction, which means they offer the seller an amount of money for it. The person who offers the most money wins the auction and can then buy the item. On top of the cost of the item, there is usually a [5]_____ fee, though some sellers offer free delivery. After a buyer receives their item in the post, they can leave [6]_____ about the seller, which helps other users of the website see how reliable that seller is.

Task 2: Understanding an item listing

Look at this item listing and then answer the questions on the next page.





Retro women's roller skates (size 5)

Item condition Used

Time left 1h 24m 43s

Current bid: £4.50 [4 bids]

Place bid

Enter £5.50 or more

Price: £20

Buy it now

Add to basket

Postage £6.00 *SuperSaver Delivery*

Item location Leicester

Payments Paypal only

Returns No returns accepted

Item description

I'm selling a pair of white retro ladies' roller skates with red wheels and laces. They are generally in good used condition, though there are some signs of wear and tear on the wheels. From a pet-free and smoke-free home.

Task 2: Understanding an item listing – questions

1. Where would you expect to see an item listing like this one?
2. Who might read this listing?
3. What is being sold?
4. What condition is this item in?
5. Which part of the item is slightly damaged?
6. When will the auction end?
7. How much money has been offered so far in the auction?
8. If you wish to bid for these skates, what is the minimum amount you can offer?
9. If you wish to 'buy it now', how much will you pay in total (including postage)?
10. Can you return this item to the seller if you're not happy with it?

eShopping

Task 3: Comparing and discussing item listings

Look at the four eShopping item listings below. These show four different coffee tables that are being sold on the eShopping auction website.

A 	
Small mahogany coffee table	
Buy it now	£15
Item condition	Used
Dimensions	Diameter: 40cm Height: 65cm
Item description	This small, round, mahogany coffee table is in very good used condition. It will add a classical touch to any living room, and you can easily tuck it away in a corner when you don't need it. It's perfect for that quiet afternoon cuppa! From a pet- and smoke-free home. Pick up only.

B 	
Oak-effect glass-top coffee table	
Current bid	£21.50
Item condition	Used
Dimensions	150cm x 65cm x 70cm
Item description	This stylish glass-top coffee table has only been used for two months and is in excellent condition. We are selling it because we've just moved house and unfortunately don't have room for it in our new place. It would make a great addition to any living room! No returns accepted.

C 	
Pine nest of tables	
Current bid	£3.50
Item condition	Used
Dimensions	50cm x 40cm x 60cm
Item description	Made of solid pine, this nest of tables can easily be stored in a corner of your living room and brought out when guests arrive – a handy space-saving design! These tables are in generally good used condition, with a few signs of wear and tear on a couple of the corners.

D 	
Modern brown wooden table	
Buy it now	£60
Item condition	New
Dimensions	170cm x 60cm x 55cm
Item description	Brand new in box dark solid wood coffee table. I'm selling this as it was a present, but didn't match our other furniture. This is a real bargain at £60, as it was bought originally for £150. Bag it now before it goes!

A. Tell your group which table you would most like to buy, and why.

Online auctions – student worksheets

B. The people below all want to buy a coffee table for their living room. In your group, decide which table would be best for each person and then write the letter of each item listing (e.g. A) next to each person’s details:

Aimee



Aimee is a young, single mum with two children under the age of five. She lives in a small, cramped flat and does not have a job at the moment.

Doris



Doris is a pensioner who lives in a cluttered little bungalow. She has a traditional taste in furniture.

Harj and Kiran



Harj and Kiran are a young couple who live in a modern apartment with unusual furniture. They often have guests over for coffee.

Simeon



Simeon is a middle-aged businessman living in London. His house is spacious and full of simple furniture.

C. In the sentence, ‘Aimee is a young, single mum’, the words ‘young’ and ‘single’ are adjectives.

Find and underline five adjectives in the 8 texts above.

Online auctions – student worksheets

Task 4: Writing an item listing

Your teacher will give you a picture of something you would like to sell on eShopping's website.

- A. *Look at your item and think of at least five adjectives which you could use to describe it. Write these below:*

- B. *What information do you need to mention about your item in a listing? Make notes below:*

- C. *Use the table below to create an item listing. Write a description of your item which describes it and persuades the reader to buy it!*

Item name	
'Buy it now' price	£
Item condition	
Item description	

Task 5: Matching items and listings

Now match the listings the other students have written with the photos of the things they are trying to sell.