



## Black Friday in the USA

Black Friday refers to the day just after Thanksgiving in the US.

Because so many companies have a four day weekend, many people begin their Christmas shopping on

this day. Black Friday is one of the busiest shopping days of the year. Shopping malls are packed with people, parking lots are crowded, and lines at stores are very, very long. Some stores even open at five or six in the morning because there are so many people. Other stores have discounts and sales to draw even more customers.

Of course, there are some people who dislike Black Friday. There are some people who hate the day and its crowds very much. They think that people should consume less and so have created a day called "Buy Nothing Day." It falls on the same day as Black Friday, and it encourages people to buy nothing, of course.

However, for most people, Black Friday just presents one more opportunity to go shopping. For those who don't like shopping, then it's one more reason to avoid the stores and shopping malls.



### True or False?

1. The day after Independence Day is called Black Friday. T/F
2. Some shops often open at 4 a.m. T/F
3. "Buy Nothing Day" is on the same day as Black Friday. T/F

*Answers:*

*1T, 2F, 3T*

## **Christmas Shopping in the UK**

Christmas is the busiest time of year for shops in the UK. Many shops stay open till late in the run up to Christmas, so that people who work in the daytime can have extra time to shop for Christmas decorations and gifts.



Most department stores decorate their

windows with elaborate displays and lights. Some of the bigger stores even have a Grotto where kids can visit Santa to make last minute requests for toys and have their photo taken with him!

Not everybody enjoys the Christmas season, however. In a survey conducted by a mail order catalogue a few years back, 20 % of women polled claimed to hate the festive season. On average, the women surveyed spent almost 300 hours preparing for Christmas, so maybe that had something to do with it. They also spent, on average, 11 hours clearing up after Christmas Day; perhaps that had something to do with it as well! Despite this, 70 per cent of women polled in the survey felt that the time they spent preparing for Christmas was worthwhile.

Many shops these days begin promoting Christmas months before the holiday - sometimes as early as September! Because of this, some people feel that Christmas has become too commercial and that people have forgotten its true meaning.

### **True or False?**

1. The average woman polled in the survey spends 11 hours preparing for Christmas. T/F
2. Some people believe that Christmas has become too commercialised. T/F
3. Everybody enjoys the Christmas season. T/F
4. Some shops in the UK begin promoting Christmas months before the holiday. T/F

*Answers:*

*1F, 2T, 3F, 4T*