

## Cashless society draws closer with only one in six payments now in cash

**Level:** Elementary/Pre-intermediate – Teacher's notes

**Article summary:** The article describes how the use of cash has fallen during the pandemic.

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Skills:** Reading, Speaking, Writing

**Language focus:** Vocabulary

**Materials needed:** One copy of the worksheet per student

**Key:**

1. 35%
2. 13.7 million
3. 7.4 million
4. 50%
5. about 1.2 million
6. 27%
7. £45
8. about 83%
9. 2.9 million
10. 13.7 million

### 4. Key language

- a. Students can check their answers by finding these phrases in the text.

**Key:**

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c
5. e

### 5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each one.

### 6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to refer to the second graph in the article. Check that they understand the four adverbs (*slightly – a little; gradually – slowly over a period of time; rapidly – very quickly; significantly – a lot*).

**Suggested answers**

1. The use of debit cards rose significantly (rapidly) between 2010 and 2019 but fell slightly in 2020.
2. The use of cash fell rapidly (significantly) in 2020.
3. Payment by cheque fell gradually between 2010 and 2020.
4. Payment by direct debit rose slightly between 2010 and 2020.

### 1. Warmer

- a. The purpose of this activity is to introduce the topic of cash in preparation for the text. Ask students to work individually to match the currencies with the countries in which they are used and then to compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that the dollar is also used in the USA, amongst other countries of course, and the pound in the UK.

**Key:**

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. a |
| 2. e | 5. d |
| 3. f | 6. b |

### 2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups.

**Key:**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. cashless     | 6. hygienic     |
| 2. rapidly      | 7. cash machine |
| 3. transaction  | 8. collapse     |
| 4. consumer     | 9. income       |
| 5. Transmission | 10. decline     |

### 3. Comprehension check

- a. Ask students to work individually to answer the questions and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Note that in number 4, the text says 'half of all transactions' so this is 50% when expressed as a percentage.