

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

Level: Advanced – 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

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
2. e
3. f
4. a
5. d
6. b

2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups. Point out that *hospitality* is often used in the phrase *the hospitality industry* and this involves hotels, restaurants, bars and cafés. The word *hospitality* can also mean *friendly and generous behaviour towards visitors and guests to make them feel welcome*, as in 'The people of this region are famous

for their hospitality.' Note that *reliant* is followed by the preposition *on* in the same way as the verbal form *rely on*. Highlight the pronunciation of *row* (an argument): /rəʊ/.

Key:

1. transaction
2. opt for
3. hospitality
4. row
5. decline
6. chunk
7. surge
8. shift
9. reliant
10. hygienic
11. bounce back
12. viable

3. Comprehension check

- a. The answers given are only suggested answers and students may correctly answer the questions in different ways, e.g. in number 6, they may say 'because they think they might catch Covid from dirty coins and banknotes' or similar.

Key:

1. the coronavirus pandemic
2. 13.7 million
3. 15%
4. pubs and cafés
5. online shopping
6. because they are worried about Covid transmission
7. more than five million
8. about 83%
9. a £50 note
10. 13.7 million

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4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs. Ask students to refer back to the text to see the words in context. Note that the verb and noun forms of *decline* are same. The noun form *find* is normally only used in the plural.

Key:

1. *payment*
2. *acceleration*
3. *transmission*
4. *decline*
5. *finding(s)*
6. *consumer*

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 open an internet search engine and enter 'countries that use cashless payments the most' and then 'countries that use cashless payments the least'. They should then choose one country from each category and write a short report focusing on the guidelines shown.

The task could also be done as a homework task and students could then present their reports to the class.