**ONLINE SHOPPING**

Throughout history, shopping has always been an essential need for people, and with the help of technology it has taken on an entirely new meaning. E-commerce has given people worldwide the chance to shop whenever and wherever. ~~In the time of the~~ global pandemic, online shopping is the only resource that people have easy access to. Has online shopping made life easier?

Firstly, online shopping, as opposed to offline shopping, has given many the chance to save their time and energy by avoiding in-store ~~traffic jams~~ and long car trips. Not only is it useful for busy working people but also for those who have disabilities and cannot go to the store.

Online stores offer a wide variety of items and are always open for business, whereas most physical stores have limited opening hours. Consequently, online stores enable their customers to shop at their own time and pace. Many point out how this new way of shopping has given them a golden opportunity to compare product prices, thus being able to find the most affordable ones.

On the other hand, others believe that online shopping is not the perfect medium when it comes to purchasing certain items such as clothes, electronic goods, and household goods. This is due to the impossibility of being able to physically examine the merchandise, which makes many consumers reluctant when it comes to shopping online. One of the major drawbacks is the rising threat of cybertheft; when it comes to making a virtual payment, thieves can steal personal information and payment details without anyone noticing. For this reason, it is essential for users to be careful, for some e-tailers are not always reliable. Most importantly, the relative easiness of internet shopping means that one can immediately purchase items without even noticing the amount of things that one is actually buying, thus making it more likely for customers to become addicted to shopping and get into debt.

All things considered, online shopping is a growing trend and it may indeed replace in-store shopping altogether**.** In fact, many stores are shutting down. During this global pandemic, online shopping is proving to be invaluable, allowing many companies to continue their businesses. The only thing users can do is cease this new way of purchasing, while being consciously aware of all its potential drawbacks.