

# SHOPAHOLIC

written by Teya ~~WINTERSON~~



## ONLINE SHOPPING

Released August 2017. This issue of Shopaholic will focus on online shopping. This form of shopping has increased in popularity.

- | Overview of online shopping as well as tips to follow
- | Stories and reviews of other people's shopping experiences
- | As well activities, facts and much more

## *Editors letter*

### A MESSAGE FROM ME...

Hi Reader,

My name is Teya D'Souza and I am the writer and editor of this edition of 'Shopaholic' with the theme of Online Shopping. This magazine has been created to target the young audiences ranging from teenagers to young adults. They are in fact the main consumers that use online shopping as a way of purchasing goods.

Online shopping has slowly grow in popularity over the years, due to its convenience and simplicity. However, along with this it can be risky and dangerous if consumers are not aware of what they are getting themselves into when shopping online.

Hopefully, this edition of Shopaholic will help inform and teach teenagers and young adults about the risks that come along with online shopping and things to consider. Shopaholic provides a fun approach to teaching and includes activities, stories, facts and much more.

Hope you enjoy!

Love Teya xoxo



# Online shopping

## PROS OF ONLINE SHOPPING

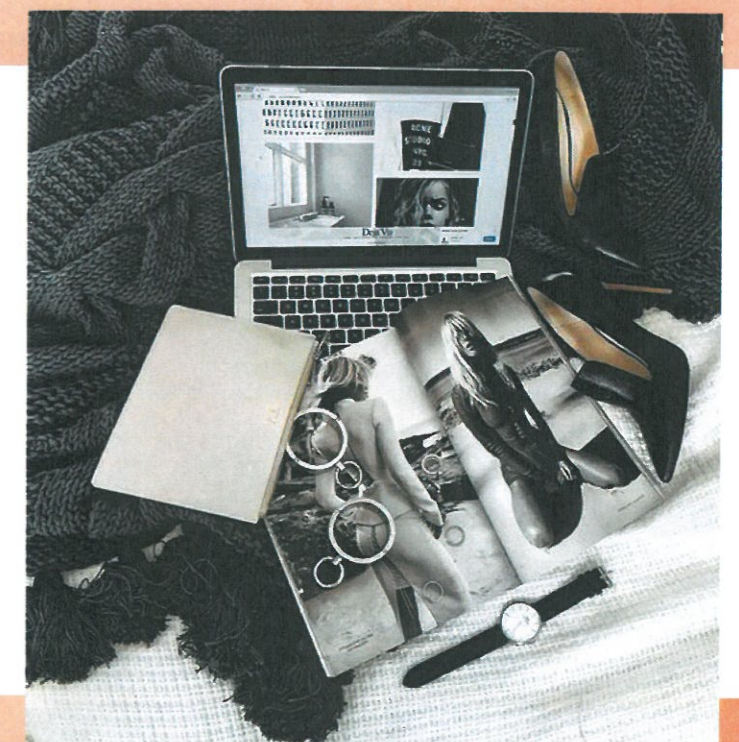
Online shopping has many advantages these include:

- Incredible convenience because it can be done at home and isn't time consuming
- The stores are almost never closed and can be accessed anywhere- all you need is internet access.
- Online shoppers do not have to wait in long lines and don't have to deal with annoying salespeople
- Price comparisons can be done easily and between different sites
- Online stores want to keep you as a customer, and may offer discounts, rewards, and cash back in your pocket if you sign up for their newsletter and emails.
- Easy access to consumer reviews to help get other people's viewpoints on products
- The products are delivered straight to the door step in about 2-6 days on average.

## CONS OF ONLINE SHOPPING

Although online shopping has many pros, there are also some cons these include:

- Online shoppers are not able to physically inspect or try on the items
- It is hard to get exact sizing and there is the risk that the item may not fit, if clothing or shoes
- There is no way to negotiate the price and payment terms that may exist in local stores
- Items ordered online are sometimes back ordered, but shoppers may not find out until weeks later
- It is hard to know if a site is a legitimate retail store and if is safe to shop
- Restocking and shipping costs are often charged on returns
- It is harder to get control of a person when dealing with a problem
- Privacy and security are concerns to make sure the transaction is safe
- Sometimes scams can occur from online shopping stores as well as fraud.



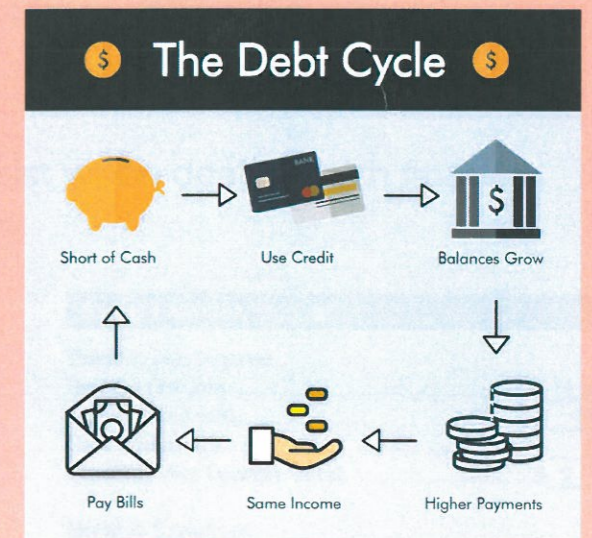
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## THINGS TO BE AWARE OF WHEN ONLINE SHOPPING

Although, on most occasions the online shopping transactions are successful and most websites are trustworthy, there are still occasions in which fraud and scams can occur. On occasions in which scams occur it is important to refer to government websites like Scam watch, and report the scams to the system.

However, if these small things are followed the chances of fraud and scams can be decreased.

- Be cautious of strange or unfamiliar websites, and instead use familiar trusted websites and make sure you read reviews.
- Be careful when filling out personal details and never give websites your credit card password etc.
- If a product is too good to be true then it probably isn't a legitimate product.
- It is important to budget, so when online shopping keep in mind how much you are spending and whether you really need what you are buying.
- Make sure you read the fine print and don't get caught out by delivery charges, foreign currency fees or import duties. Also check out the refund policy in case something goes wrong or you are not satisfied with the purchase.



## THE DEBT CYCLE AND AFTERPAY

After pay is a new payment type that online websites are offering on their sites. It allows shoppers to instantly order their products without paying an upfront fee and makes it easy to pay when it suits you. The websites allow for consumers to pay for their purchase over four equal installments, due every two weeks. This is a simple and great option for young shoppers but it also brings in the problem of the debt cycle. The debt cycle is defined as, "continual borrowing that leads to increased debt, increasing costs, and eventual default" (Pritchard, 2016). If shoppers complete payments on time they will only ever pay the price of the item they have purchased. However, if these deadlines are missed- fees for missed payments will be applied. These debts can build up if shoppers do not budget properly and constantly spend more than they are earning or able to pay. Some of the short term effects of this particular type of payment are that shoppers will receive their products without paying for it all at once. The payments will slowly be taken out and can eventually add up if not effectively tracked. This then leads to long term effect of shoppers getting in the debt cycle because they are unable to pay for their purchases and get charged for the missed payment fee.