

Q 9 Learning English through Social Issues

You read an editorial of a newspaper suggesting that celebrities today are affecting how young people spend their money. In the editorial, the writer pointed out that, under the influence of celebrities, young people are more likely to buy brand names and expensive products.

Write a letter to the editor sharing an experience in which you bought something expensive due to the influence of public figures. Describe and reflect on your experience. End by advising the readers to use money carefully. Sign your name 'Chris Wong'.

Dear Editor,

I have read an editorial of your newspaper about how youngsters nowadays are affected by celebrities and I am writing to share with your readers my experience in buying famous brand's products.

Firstly, I agree that teenagers like to buy expensive products due to the influence of the celebrities, for example, buying brand new smart phones, sneakers, head phones, clothes, etc. advertised by celebrities. The reason why teenagers love to buy brand names and expensive products is that they are affected by celebrities. They take the celebrities as their role models, whether intentionally or unintentionally. They are drawn to the success, fortune and fame of these celebrities. These celebrities include shining stars and singers in the showbiz, e.g. Andy LAU, Aaron KWOK, Sammi CHENG, etc. and sports, e.g. Yao Ming, David Beckham, and many others in the NBA, etc.

I have the same experience. When I was still a teenager, I used to spend my money on some expensive soccer boots, and it was because they appeared in the advertisements of some famous celebrities. More recently, I used to spend much money on some sports gears. Most of them were expensive. Every time when there were some latest boots released, my teammates and I would spend money to buy them. However, we would just wear them 2 to 3 times. It was because the celebrities change their boots every season. Therefore, I understand why teenagers like to buy expensive products. It is because of those celebrities.

However, the influence of celebrities is not just the only reason why teenagers tend to buy expensive products. Peer group pressure is also a key reason why they spend money to buy products which are expensive. Sometimes, when teenagers saw their friends buy a brand new smart phone, they were likely to buy one, too. It is because they want to show off. Vanity has conquered our souls. Therefore, peer group influence is also a reason why youngsters like buying brand names and expensive things.

Finally, if we want to help teenagers to stop buying expensive things, we should teach them to treasure what they have and teach them to save money for future use.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong

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(359 words)

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