

## In Focus Academic 1 - Speed Reading Unit 9

### Personalization and AI in Online Shopping

In the world of shopping, something exciting is happening. Stores are no longer just places you walk into. Now, shopping can happen anywhere, thanks to computers and phones. This change is because of something called artificial intelligence, or AI for short, and the ability to know what shoppers like.

Imagine going online to look for a new shirt. In the past, you might have had to search through many pages to find what you wanted. But now, the website seems to know exactly what you like. It shows you shirts in your favorite color and style right away. This is AI at work. It remembers what you looked at before and guesses what you want to see now.

This smart help comes from computers learning about us. Every time we click on something or search for something, the computer pays attention. It uses this information to make our next visit better. This is called personalization. It makes shopping faster and more fun because we see things we like.

How does it work? Well, every time we shop or look for something, we share little bits of information. AI uses this information to find patterns. For example, if you always look at sports shoes, the AI learns that you probably like sports. Then, it shows you more things related to sports.

Some people think this is great. It makes shopping easier and helps them find new things. For businesses, it's helpful too. When customers find what they want faster, they are happier and more likely to buy something.

However, there are questions too. Some people worry about privacy. They wonder what else the computer knows about them. They ask if it's safe to share so much information. These are important questions. Safe shopping online means making sure information is protected.

Another interesting part of AI in shopping is how it talks to us. Have you ever chatted with customer service on a website? Sometimes, that's AI too. These chatbots can answer questions just like a person would. They can help with things like finding the right size or making a return. This is another way AI makes shopping online easy.

But AI is not just about selling things. It can also help make better choices. For example, it can suggest products that are good for the environment. This way, shopping online can also be about making good choices for our planet.

Future shopping with AI looks exciting. We are already seeing more personal help, like virtual fitting rooms. This is likely to grow. Increasingly, AI will help us see how clothes look on us without leaving home. Or it could help us design our own unique products.

In the end, shopping is changing. AI is making it more personal, more exciting, and sometimes even more responsible. As we move forward, it will be important to keep talking about how to make sure shopping online is safe and good for everyone. This way, we can all enjoy the new world of shopping.

When you have finished, write your time in the box.

Now, go to the next page and answer the questions. **Do NOT look back at the text.**

**Now, let's test your understanding of the text with some questions.**

1. What has changed the shopping experience?
  - A) Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  - B) Manual calculations
  - C) Paper catalogs
  - D) Postal services
2. How does AI in online shopping work?
  - A) By guessing randomly
  - B) By learning from user actions
  - C) By asking for user preferences
  - D) By consulting experts
3. What does personalization in online shopping aim to do?
  - A) Slow down the shopping process
  - B) Make shopping faster and more enjoyable
  - C) Increase the price of items
  - D) Decrease the variety of products
4. How do patterns help AI in online shopping?
  - A) They make the system more attractive.
  - B) They prevent expensive purchases.
  - C) They help find new things.
  - D) They limit the search results.
5. Why is AI considered beneficial for businesses?
  - A) It attracts new customers.
  - B) It reduces the number of products returned.
  - C) It increases product prices.
  - D) It helps customers find products quickly.
6. What concerns do some people have about AI in shopping?
  - A) It's too accurate.
  - B) It prefers certain brands.
  - C) It makes shopping too easy.
  - D) It affects privacy.
7. What is crucial for safe online shopping with AI?
  - A) Sharing more personal information
  - B) Ignoring security warnings
  - C) Ensuring information is protected
  - D) Using fast internet connections
8. What role can chatbots play in online shopping?
  - A) They ignore customer queries.
  - B) They increase waiting times.
  - C) They assist with customer service.
  - D) They request customer returns.
9. How does AI contribute to responsible shopping?
  - A) By avoiding dangerous products
  - B) By suggesting eco-friendly products
  - C) By following environmental concerns
  - D) By promoting consumption
10. What is a potential growing future feature of AI in shopping?

- A) Virtual fitting rooms
- B) Less personalized service
- C) Slower checkout processes
- D) Decreased product variety