

Mrs Karen Lam has given you a sample debate speech as reference. Study it and complete LT 3.12.

Chairperson, adjudicators, teachers and fellow students,

The motion for our debate is ‘Internet shopping is a better way to shop’. I’m speaking on behalf of the opposition team. Our team completely disagrees that Internet shopping is a better way to shop. Our dear opponent has defined the word ‘better’ as ‘more efficient and in higher quality’. However, I’d like to clarify the meaning of this word. It should not be confined to ‘efficiency’ and ‘quality’ but it should also be defined in terms of ‘safety’. My first speaker has already discussed some of the potential dangers of online shopping, which I will further elaborate. I’ll also talk about the inconvenience that may occur in online shopping.

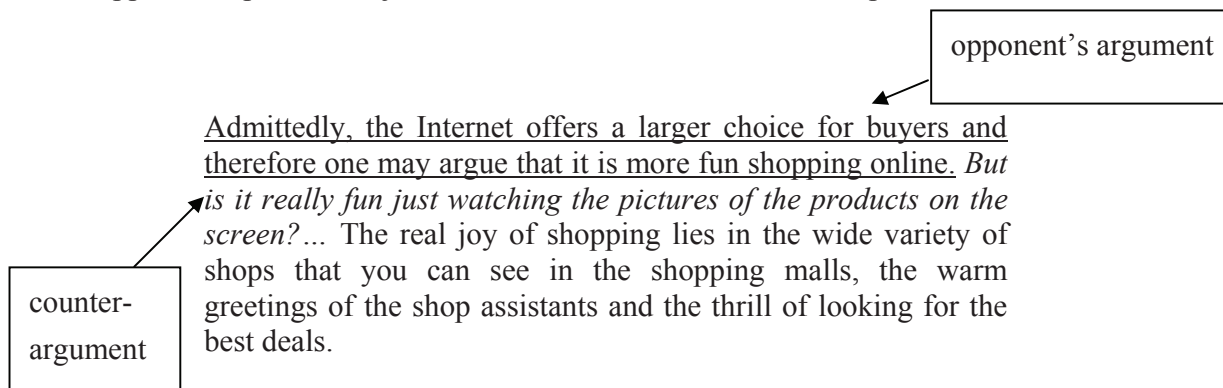
First of all, I’d like to make some rebuttals. The first speaker of the proposition team has claimed that thanks to technological advancement, the Internet can now provide a safe platform for online transactions. People can order any items online and the payment transactions can be completed through the Internet. Nevertheless, a recent study done by The University of Hong Kong shows that the number of online frauds has increased by 53%! The increase is really alarming. Not only does it show that online transactions are not totally safe, but it also indicates that Internet shopping provides a convenient platform for crime. In fact, one of the greatest concerns of online shopping is the fear about personal or financial information being stolen. There are always traps waiting for victims. Bad people may ‘phish’ around, trying to get personal information from consumers by creating fake websites. When shopping online and entering these websites, customers may fall an easy prey to them and the information attached to these transactions will definitely fall into the wrong hands. After all, safety is part and parcel of the shopping experience. Nobody is willing to take risks doing things that may be unsafe.

Undeniably, it will be difficult for shoppers who live a hectic life to spare time to shop in stores. The Internet is accessible around the clock every day. With just the click of a mouse, shoppers anywhere are able to purchase virtually any products anytime online. However, it must be noted that Internet shopping does not necessarily save time. In fact, it is much more convenient to pick up an item at any local stores than to deal with after-sale problems like receiving items different from what was expected, going through the process of sending them back and requesting a refund. Can you imagine how inconvenient it will be if you do not like the product you have purchased online or you find that it is damaged during shipping? It may take a longer time to return the product to the company and there is no guarantee that the replacement will be up to your expectation. Therefore, it is surely an advantage to shop in physical stores as you can always see and check the products you want.

Admittedly, the Internet offers a larger choice for buyers and therefore one may argue that it is more fun shopping online. But is it really fun just watching the pictures of the products on the screen? Scrolling up and down and looking at those bits and pieces on the screen is absolutely tiring. The real joy of shopping lies in the wide variety of shops that you can see in the shopping malls, the warm greetings of the shop assistants and the thrill of looking for the best deals. All these are the ‘real’ experience of shopping. Internet shopping is always second-rate when compared with shopping in physical stores.

After considering the pros and cons of Internet shopping, I’m sure all of you will agree that shopping is best done through physical stores while Internet shopping remains second-rate. Let me conclude by saying once again that Internet shopping is certainly not a better way to shop and therefore today’s motion should not stand. Thank you.

- A. Counter-arguments are important components in a debate speech. They are often used to challenge the points raised by the opponents. Counter-arguments are also developed as debaters anticipate their opponents' possible objections or concerns. Below is an example:



Opponents' arguments and counter-arguments are usually introduced by the following expressions:

Expressions Introducing Opponents' Arguments	Expressions Introducing Counter-arguments
· It is true that .../True · Admittedly · Undeniably/It cannot be denied that ... · Although/Though/In spite of/Despite · It has been argued that ... · Some people may think that ... · Our dear opponent may say that ... · The first speaker of the opposition team has mentioned ...	· But / However / Yet / Nevertheless

Read the debate speech 'Internet shopping is a better way to shop' again and identify the opponents' arguments and counter-arguments in the speech.

B. The following table indicates the structure and the main points in each paragraph of the debate speech in LT 3.12. Complete the table by filling in the appropriate letters and numbers from Columns A and B.

Para 1: _____	· addressing the chairperson and the audience · stating your position · _____ · _____
Para 2: _____	· _____ · using statistics to back up the argument
Para 3: _____	· anticipating the opponent's argument and putting forward a counter-argument · presenting the argument that online shopping is not as convenient as expected · _____
Para 4: _____c	· _____ · using a rhetorical question to encourage the audience to think · _____
Para 5: _____	· reinforcing the central argument by comparing the experience of online shopping with shopping in 'real' stores

Column A	Column B
a. Rebuttal b. Conclusion c. Opponent's argument and counter-argument d. Introduction	1. making reference to what your team member has said to establish teamwork 2. acknowledging the argument(s) raised by the opponent(s) and rebutting 3. anticipating the opponent's argument and putting forward a counter-argument 4. presenting the argument that online shopping is not fun 5. using a rhetorical question to encourage the audience to think 6. clarifying the motion

A.

Chairperson, adjudicators, teachers and fellow students,

The motion for our debate is 'Internet shopping is a better way to shop'. I'm speaking on behalf of the opposition team. Our team completely disagrees that Internet shopping is a better way to shop. Our dear opponent has defined the word 'better' as 'more efficient and in higher quality'. *However, I'd like to clarify the meaning of this word. It should not be confined to 'efficiency' and 'quality' but it should also be defined in terms of 'safety'.* My first speaker has already discussed some of the potential dangers of online shopping, which I will further elaborate. I'll also talk about the inconvenience that may occur in online shopping.

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Undeniably, it will be difficult for shoppers who live a hectic life to spare time to shop in stores. The Internet is accessible around the clock every day. With just the click of a mouse, shoppers anywhere are able to purchase virtually any products anytime online. *However, it must be noted that Internet shopping does not necessarily save time.* In fact, it is much more convenient to pick up an item at any local stores than to deal with after-sale problems like receiving items different from what was expected, going through the process of sending them back and requesting a refund. Can you imagine how inconvenient it will be if you do not like the product you have purchased online or you find that it is damaged during shipping? It may take a longer time to return the product to the company and there is no guarantee that the replacement will be up to your expectation. Therefore, it is surely an advantage to shop in physical stores as you can always see and check the products you want.

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Admittedly, the Internet offers a larger choice for buyers and therefore one may argue that it is more fun shopping online. *But is it really fun just watching the pictures of the products on the screen?* Scrolling up and down and looking at those bits and pieces on the screen is absolutely tiring. The real joy of shopping lies in the wide variety of shops that you can see in the shopping malls, the warm greetings of the shop assistants and the thrill of looking for the best deals. All these are the 'real' experience of shopping. Internet shopping is always second-rate when compared with shopping in physical stores.

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After considering the pros and cons of Internet shopping, I'm sure all of you will agree that shopping is best done through physical stores while Internet shopping remains second-rate. Let me conclude by saying once again that Internet shopping is certainly not a better way to shop and therefore today's motion should not stand. Thank you.

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Underlined words: opponent's arguments

Italicised words: counter-arguments

B.

Para 1: <u> d </u>	· addressing the chairperson and the audience · stating your position · <u> 6 </u> · <u> 1 </u>
Para 2: <u> a </u>	· <u> 2 </u> · using statistics to back up the argument
Para 3: <u> c </u>	· anticipating the opponent's argument and putting forward a counter-argument · presenting the argument that online shopping is not as convenient as expected · <u> 5 </u>
Para 4: <u> c </u>	· <u> 3 </u> · using a rhetorical question to encourage the audience to think · <u> 4 </u>
Para 5: <u> b </u>	· reinforcing the central argument by comparing the experience of online shopping with shopping in 'real' stores

Write a debate speech on the motion ‘The Internet does more harm than good to our everyday life.’ in about 400 words. You can write for or against the motion. Remember to use the vocabulary or expressions you have learnt in this unit, such as idiomatic pairs, intensifiers, Internet-related vocabulary, as well as develop counter-arguments to strengthen your speech. You may also use the useful expressions provided in LT 3.14.

Useful Expressions for Debate Speeches

Classifying motions and terms

- We see the motion ‘...’ to mean that ...
- We believe that the definition given by the ... team is unfair and would like to use this definition instead.
- The term ‘...’ should be defined in terms of ...

Expressing an opinion

- I agree because ...
- I disagree because ...

Using rhetorical questions to rebut

- What if ...?
- What would happen if ...?
- Does it mean ...?
- Why should/shouldn’t ...?

Listing arguments

- Firstly, ... Secondly, ...
- First, ... Second, ...
- Now to my first point ... This is because ...
- Now to my second point ... Finally, ...

Adding ideas

- In addition, ...
- Moreover, ...
- Furthermore, ...
- Also, ...
- Apart from this, ...
- Another reason/cause/problem/effect/advantage/disadvantage/solution is ...

Concluding

- To sum up, ...
- In brief, ...
- To conclude, ...
- In conclusion, ...
- Let me conclude by saying that ...