

"Buy Nothing Day" is an annual event that has been taking place for some years now in many countries of the world (including Germany). The text is an extract from the homepage of the UK Buy Nothing Day website. Read the text and then complete the task that follows'.

Buy Nothing Day 2006 Saturday June 24th (UK)

Saturday June 24th 2006 is Buy Nothing Day (UK), the self-proclaimed festival of frugal living. It's a day where you challenge yourself, your family and friends to switch off from shopping and tune into life. Celebrated as a holiday by some, a street party by others - anyone can take part provided they spend a day without spending!

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY!

The challenge is to try simple living for a day, spend time with family and friends, rather than spend money on them. People make a pact with themselves to take a break from shopping as a personal experiment or public statement and the best thing is - IT'S FREE

THE ISSUES...

Buy Nothing Day exposes the environmental and ethical consequences of consumerism. The developed countries - only 20% of the world population - are consuming over 80% of the earth's natural resources, causing a disproportionate level of environmental damage and unfair distribution of wealth.

As consumers we need to question the products we buy and challenge the companies who produce them. What are the true risks to the environment and developing countries? The argument is broad and deep - while it continues we should be looking for simple solutions - Buy Nothing Day is a good place to start.

Of course, Buy Nothing Day isn't about changing your lifestyle for just one day - we want it to be a lasting relationship - maybe a life-changing experience? We want people to make a commitment to consuming less, recycling more and challenging companies to clean up and be fair. The supermarket or shopping mall might offer choice, but this shouldn't be at the cost of the environment or developing countries.

PARTICIPATE BY NOT PARTICIPATING...

Tell all your friends about Buy Nothing Day, **DOWNLOAD** posters and leaflets - make lots of copies. Put them up at school, in windows, around your workplace and your town. Buy Nothing Day can be anything you want it to be - enjoy it and have fun.

This year people plan to host swap shops - free concerts - credit card cut-up tables - shopping-free zones with carpet and chairs - conga against consumerism - protest against sweatshops - dress up as consumer piggies or shopping sheep! Buy Nothing Day can be anything you want it to be. There is only one rule - anyone can take part, provided they spend a day without spending!

Source: <http://www.buynothingday.co.uk/home.html> (adapted)

TASK (200 words)

Imagine this text has been sent to you by a British friend, who has asked you if you plan to participate yourself. What would be your response? Write a letter back, explaining why you think you would or would not be prepared to participate.