

## Get an electric shock to stop buying things

21st May, 2016



Picture: Pavlok.com

A British firm has developed a new product to help us save money. The product is a wristband that gives us an electric shock if we spend too much money. The wristband is called Pavlok. It is linked to our bank account. It knows how much money we have

in the bank. If we go shopping and there is not enough money in our bank account, the wristband delivers a 255-volt electric shock to our wrist. This warns us not to overspend. The company is called Intelligent Environments. It wants to work with banks to help customers with their money. So far, no banks in Britain have said they would offer the Pavlok to their customers. They could start doing this in the future.

The Pavlok wristband is part of the Internet of Things. This is the idea that everything in our life will be connected to the Internet. The CEO of Intelligent Environments, David Webber, said people liked the idea of the Pavlok. Shoppers would rather get a small electric shock in the store from the wristband than get a big shock later when they see their credit card bill. Mr Webber said the Pavlok would be great for people who cannot stop spending because they have no willpower or their willpower is weak. He added that many young people suffer from the "ostrich effect". This is when people stick their heads in the sand and buy things rather than look at how much money they have in their bank.

Sources: *BBC.com / mirror.co.uk / thememo.com*

## Writing

People should never spend more money than they have in the bank. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

new product / wristband / electric shock / linked / bank account / overspend / intelligent / idea / everything / credit card / bill / great / spending / willpower / ostrich / money

## True / False

- The electric shock device helps us to save money. T / F
- The device is connected to our bank account. T / F
- The wristband gives people a 2,550-volt shock. T / F
- Banks in Britain have not given any of the wristbands to customers. T / F
- The wristbands are part of the Internet of Things. T / F
- Shoppers don't like the idea of the wristband. T / F
- The wristband is no good for people with no willpower. T / F
- A CEO said people always look at how much money they have in the bank. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. firm      | a. prefer to    |
| 2. product   | b. until now    |
| 3. linked    | c. item         |
| 4. delivers  | d. poor         |
| 5. so far    | e. purchasing   |
| 6. idea      | f. self control |
| 7. rather    | g. company      |
| 8. spending  | h. gives        |
| 9. willpower | i. concept      |
| 10. weak     | j. connected    |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How would you describe your shopping habits?
- Why do people like shopping?
- How useful would the Pavlok be for you?
- When was the last time you spent too much?
- Would the Pavlok be good to stop overeating?
- How happy are you with your bank account?
- Would you get a Pavlok if the bank offered you one?

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. a new product to help             | a. to their customers        |
| 2. a wristband that gives us         | b. money                     |
| 3. It is linked                      | c. bill                      |
| 4. not enough                        | d. an electric shock         |
| 5. offer the Pavlok                  | e. connected to the Internet |
| 6. everything in our life will be    | f. they have                 |
| 7. Shoppers would rather get a       | g. us save money             |
| 8. credit card                       | h. have no willpower         |
| 9. cannot stop spending because they | i. small electric shock      |
| 10. look at how much money           | j. to our bank account       |

## Discussion – Student B

- How often do you spend too much money?
- What other things do we need a shock to stop us doing something?
- What do you know about the Internet of Things?
- Why do many men hate shopping?
- What do you think when you see your credit card?
- How much willpower do you have?
- What do you think of the 'ostrich effect'?
- What questions would you like to ask the Pavlok CEO?

## Spelling

- developed a new opdtrcu
- not enough money in our bank ocntauc
- the wristband sedeirlv a 255-volt electric shock
- This warns us not to pendesrvo
- help curesosmt with their money
- They could start doing this in the rtfueu
- onntecdce to the Internet
- Shoppers would erhtra get a small electric shock
- trdeci card bill
- they have no wlplorwei
- He added that many young people sffrue
- the "ostrich feefct"

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. c	3. j	4. h	5. b
6. i	7. a	8. e	9. f	10. d

## Role Play

### Role A – Keep all your coins

You think keeping all your coins is the best way to save money. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): walking everywhere, making a budget or staying single.

### Role B – Walk everywhere

You think walking everywhere is the best way to save money. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): keeping all your coins, making a budget or staying single.

### Role C – Make a budget

You think making a budget is the best way to save money. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): walking everywhere, keeping all your coins or staying single.

### Role D – Stay single

You think staying single is the best way to save money. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): walking everywhere, making a budget or keeping all your coins.

## Speaking – Save money

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of saving money at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| • keep all coins  | • invest         |
| • walk everywhere | • make a budget  |
| • no chocolate    | • stay at home   |
| • stay single     | • buy used goods |

### Answers – True False

a T	b T	c F	d T	e T	f F	g F	h F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.