

Structures			
Comparisons with big differences			
The new model is	a lot	smaller	than the old one.
	much	more efficient	
	far	less expensive	
Comparisons with small differences			
The new model is	a little	smaller	than the old one.
	A bit	More efficient	
	Slightly	Less expensive	

Listening 9.3

Audio link: <https://www.inlingua.com/audios>

9.3 Listening (Track 35)



You are going to hear four comparisons between buying furniture brand-new and buying it secondhand. Listen and complete the extracts below. Then decide if the comments describe big differences (B) or small differences (S). Mark the boxes.

- | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | "It's _____ cheaper ..." | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> S |
| 2 | "It's _____ more difficult to find ..." | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> S |
| 3 | "... it's _____ more difficult to find ..." | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> S |
| 4 | "... things that are only _____ cheaper ..." | <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> S |

Practice Exercise 1

Complete the comparisons below. The first one is done for you.

- My new car is + big my old one. (lot)
My new car is a lot bigger than my old one.
- The train fare is + expensive the bus fare. (slightly)

- The new software + good the old program. (much)

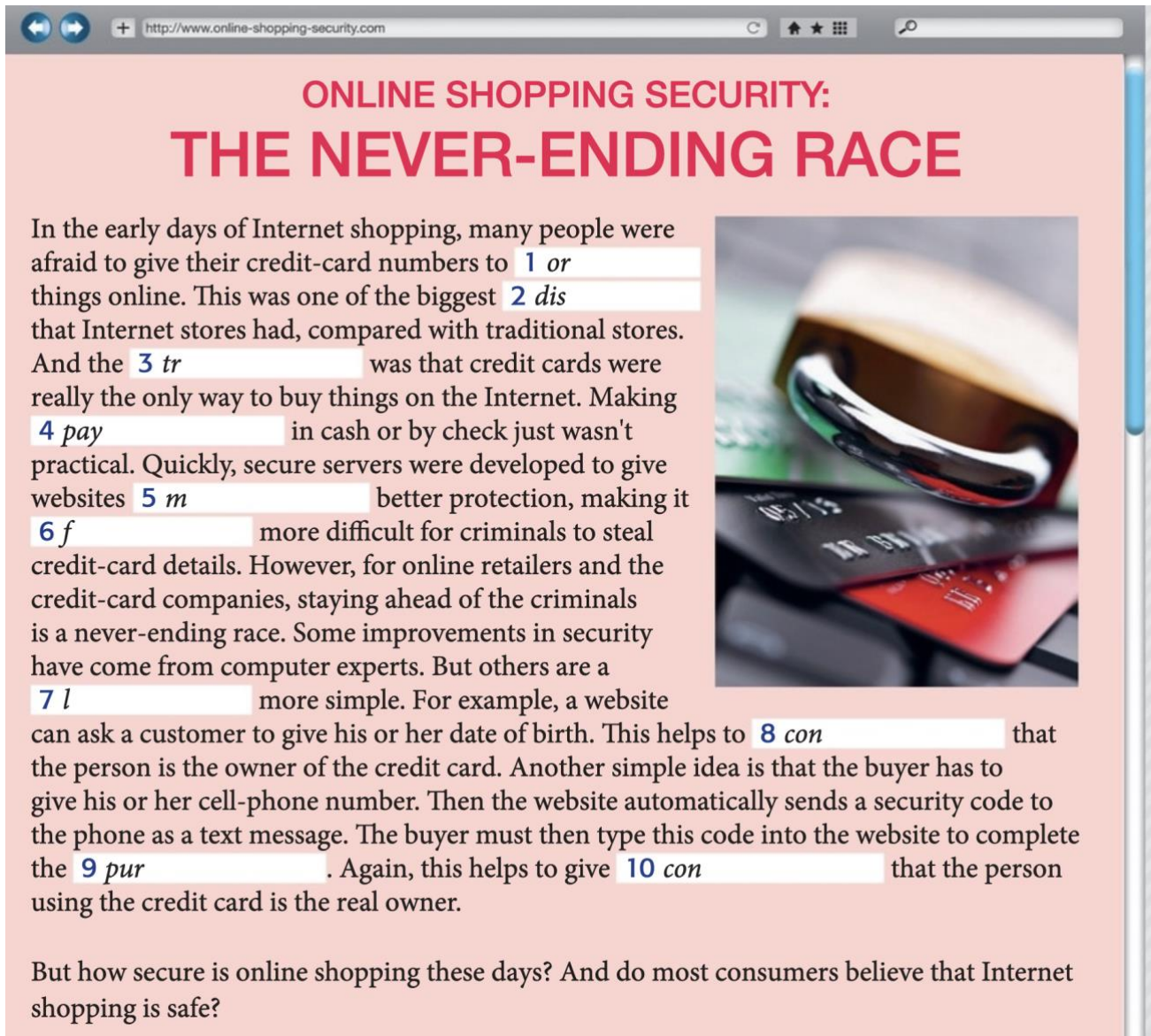
- That textbook is – complicated the other one. (little)

- This highway is + busy it was a few years ago. (far)

- Today, it's – windy it was yesterday. (bit)

Practice Exercise 2


Use the vocabulary learnt **in all the key-points of this** unit to complete the blog below:



**ONLINE SHOPPING SECURITY:
THE NEVER-ENDING RACE**

In the early days of Internet shopping, many people were afraid to give their credit-card numbers to **1 or** things online. This was one of the biggest **2 dis** that Internet stores had, compared with traditional stores. And the **3 tr** was that credit cards were really the only way to buy things on the Internet. Making **4 pay** in cash or by check just wasn't practical. Quickly, secure servers were developed to give websites **5 m** better protection, making it **6 f** more difficult for criminals to steal credit-card details. However, for online retailers and the credit-card companies, staying ahead of the criminals is a never-ending race. Some improvements in security have come from computer experts. But others are a **7 l** more simple. For example, a website can ask a customer to give his or her date of birth. This helps to **8 con** that the person is the owner of the credit card. Another simple idea is that the buyer has to give his or her cell-phone number. Then the website automatically sends a security code to the phone as a text message. The buyer must then type this code into the website to complete the **9 pur**. Again, this helps to give **10 con** that the person using the credit card is the real owner.

But how secure is online shopping these days? And do most consumers believe that Internet shopping is safe?



ANSWERS

Listening 9.3

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Much | big difference |
| 2. A bit | small difference |
| 3. Far | big difference |
| 4. Slightly | small difference |

Practice Exercise 1

1. My new car is **a lot bigger than** my old one.
2. The train fare is **slightly more expensive than** the bus fare.
3. The new software is **much better than** the program.
4. That textbook is **a little less complicated than** the other one.
5. This highway is **far busier than** it was a few years ago.
6. Today it's **a bit windier than** it was yesterday.

Practice Exercise 2

1. Order
2. Disadvantages
3. Trouble
4. Payments
5. Much
6. For
7. Lot
8. Confirm
9. Purchase
10. Confirmation