

1. Read the article. What crime does it focus on?

This week's crime report**Watch your bag!**

We're supposed to reuse our shopping bags, and many stores in the U.S. have banned plastic bags. This might help the environment, but it isn't helping the stores. There are now more people who shoplift things from supermarkets. A recent survey in Seattle revealed that some stores have lost thousands of dollars since they stopped using plastic bags. This is not just happening in Seattle – it's similar in other parts of the U.S., too. So what's going on?

Some people who bring their own bags to a store, walk through the store and put items into their bags. They then

walk out without paying for anything. It's difficult for the security guards to know if some or all of the items were in the bag before the person came into the store. Security cameras help, but they can't stop it. As a result, the cost of items and security in stores has increased, and this affects customers who have to pay more for things they want to buy.

Although shoplifting may appear easy, there are serious long-term consequences for shoplifters. The police might arrest the shoplifter, and he or she is likely to have to pay a fine. The store might refuse to let them shop there again, and the shoplifter will have a criminal record. This makes it very difficult for the person to get a college place or a job in the future. So don't do it!

2. **Identify the main idea** Which statement best expresses the main idea of the article?

1. People who shoplift always use their own bags.
2. There has been an increase in shoplifting recently in the U.S. linked to reusable shopping bags.
3. Some types of shoplifting have increased recently while others have decreased.

3. **Answer the questions.**

1. According to the survey, what has happened in Seattle recently?

Some stores have lost a lot of money
since they stopped using plastic bags.

2. How do people shoplift when they use their own shopping bags in a store?

3. What impact does the increase in shoplifting have on customers?

4. What can happen to people who shoplift after the police arrests them?

4. **Apply critical thinking** Choose the best option to complete each statement.

1. Reusing shopping bags has ...
 - a. helped a lot of American stores.
 - b. caused unexpected problems for some American stores.**
 - c. made it more difficult to shoplift.
2. Security cameras ...
 - a. are not good at stopping this kind of crime.
 - b. have stopped this sort of crime completely.
 - c. are sometimes useful with this sort of crime.
3. Some stores have increased security and this ...
 - a. hasn't changed the price of goods.
 - b. costs customers more in the end.
 - c. has lowered prices for customers.
4. Shoplifters may ...
 - a. be able to go back to certain stores.
 - b. have to pay for the goods they have stolen.
 - c. have difficulty finding a job in the future.