

Test Your Reading Skills

Our Shopping Trip to Birmingham (gap-fill)

Complete each gap in the story below using any word or phrase that fits:

Miranda has e-mailed her new pen pal Amy:

I went to Birmingham last week on the 1. _____. I went with my mum and my sister Gemma. The main reason we went was to do some 2. _____ at the Bull Ring. It's a new shopping centre and looks really 3. _____. We got the 9.24am train from Derby and it didn't take long because it was a 4. _____ one. I read a book on the way and played a game with my 5. _____. We tried to count how many 6. _____ there were in each carriage of the train.

When we got to 7. _____ the station was really busy. I was worried about getting 8. _____ because there were so many people. We went up an escalator and then outside into the street. We met Meeta, one of my mum's friends. She was taking her son to 9. _____ and they couldn't talk for long because they were late. She works part-time in a gym as a 10. _____. It was raining heavily outside so we had to run down New Street, turn right and dash straight into the Bull Ring centre. The first shop we went into was Selfridges. Mum wanted to go there because she thinks it's posh and there isn't one in Derby. She 11. _____ some new red shoes. Gemma and I had a good look around the toy department, but we didn't 12. _____ anything.

After going to a few more shops, including Principles, Debenhams and Gap, we were all pretty 13. _____, so we bought some sandwiches at a shop which was called, funnily enough, "EAT"! We sat outside under some 14. _____, because the sun had come out and it was getting quite hot. Gemma got upset because she dropped her 15. _____ on the floor and it went everywhere! I was trying really hard not to laugh because it was so funny!

In the afternoon we went to some more shops and found a few great 16. _____ for my dad and Auntie Carol. It was my auntie's birthday on Monday and it will be dad's next week. We bought dad some nice aftershave from Boots and Gemma and I got him a new 17. _____ for his computer as well. Mum also bought him a present, but she wouldn't tell us what it was - she said it was a surprise!

We walked all round Birmingham and ended up back at New Street station at about half past four. Gemma and I wanted to go to the Sea Life Centre, because Gemma was desperate to see the 18. _____, but mum said that we didn't have time. We had to get back home before seven o'clock because Gemma was going to Brownies at half-past. We got back to Derby at about quarter past six. The train was ten minutes late! It 19. _____ at three different stations on the way back, including Burton-on-Trent, where my friends Jonathan and Amanda live. When we got home I felt really tired, so I just 20. _____ on my Nintendo DS for a while, watched TV with mum, and went to bed earlier than usual. You won't believe it but I had a dream all about the Bull Ring shopping centre!

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Answers will vary. Students can use any words or phrases that fit the context of the story. Here are our suggested answers:

1. train
2. shopping
3. good
4. direct
5. sister
6. people
7. Birmingham
8. lost
9. school
10. fitness instructor
11. bought
12. buy
13. hungry
14. trees
15. sandwich
16. presents
17. mouse
18. tropical fish
19. stopped
20. played