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Vocabulary: Money 词汇: 货币

How do you pay for things in a shop? Perhaps you like the **tangible** reliability of **hard cash**? Maybe the financial flexibility of a credit card suits you better? Or perhaps you prefer the simple convenience of a smartphone?

Whatever you use today, experts believe all these methods could soon become **outdated**. Instead, we will use our bodies: our eyes, our fingerprints, even our mere presence in the store. In fact it's happening already. Amazon are trialling stores which have no **checkouts**, where technology tracks the items you've taken from the shelves and deducts the total from your account when you leave the shop.

French supermarket Monoprix takes a different path: you choose your **groceries** and leave them with a human **cashier**. You then leave the shop while the cashier **tallies up** your bill, charges your account, and organises delivery to your home.

Amir Sajed, chief executive of Barclaycard, told the BBC that such new developments **spell** the end of the plastic credit card. Instead, **wearable** items such as rings, bracelets and keychains will carry **chips** that allow shoppers to "**seamlessly** shop, going between the web, an app or in store," he says.

And while all the above payment methods are **underpinned** by accounts held in traditional currencies, let's not forget the rise of alternatives such as Litecoin. Such **virtual currencies** can rise in value very quickly, but are also susceptible to **crashes** and threats from hackers. Who knows, perhaps something totally new will **take off** that changes money as we know it? One such possibility is explored in the movie In Time. It imagines a futuristic society in which the currency is time itself, where people trade the amount of time they have left to live.

Or perhaps we'd do better to **wind back the clock** to the simpler financial world of the **barter economy**. While the term **conjures** images of sacks of grain and herds of sheep being exchanged in ancient times, there are signs that bartering is **making a comeback** in today's world of modern technology. Startup Let's Barter India has developed an app which facilitates the exchange of goods, and already has around 100,000 members.

Maybe the only thing we know for certain is that money will keep evolving.

词汇表

tangible	可触摸的
hard cash	现金（包括硬币和纸钞）
outdated	过时的
checkout	付款台
groceries	杂货食品（常用复数）
cashier	收银员
to tally up	结算
to spell	意味着（不好的后果）
wearable	可穿戴的
chip	芯片
seamlessly	不间断地
to underpin	支持、构成
virtual currency	虚拟货币
crash	系统瘫痪
to take off	突然成功
to wind back the clock / to wind the clock back	让时光倒流，回到过去
barter economy	以物易物的经济制度
to conjure	让人联想到（某个画面或情境）
to make a comeback	再度兴起，回归

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What does Amir Sajed believe will happen to credit cards in the future?
2. What currency is used in the movie In Time?
3. Why might customers find shopping at Monoprix convenient and efficient?
4. Which word means 'vulnerable'?
5. True or false: Bartering has a long history.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Fashion from the 1930s is _____. All the best designers are using it as inspiration again.

making a comeback	crashing	winding the clock back	outdated
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2. I _____ my old bike for a couple of tennis rackets.

checked out	conjured	bartered	tallied up
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3. I always prefer to use _____. I just don't trust banks.

wearable technology	cashiers	hard cash	credit cards
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4. On my 60th birthday party I wound _____ and played all my favourite old music.

the clock	the clock back	back clock	wind the clock back
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5. For me, the Sahara Desert _____ images of camels, oases and unbearable heat.

underpins	spells	creates	conjures
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What does Amir Sajed believe will happen to credit cards in the future?

Amir Sajed believes that technological developments will mean the end of the plastic credit card. He thinks cards will be replaced by wearable items.

2. What currency is used in the movie In Time?

In the movie In Time, the currency is time itself.

3. Why might customers find shopping at Monoprix convenient and efficient?

Customers don't need to wait for items to be tallied up by the cashier; they also receive home delivery.

4. Which word means 'vulnerable'?

Susceptible.

5. True or false: Bartering has a long history.

True. The barter economy existed in ancient times.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Fashion from the 1930s is **making a comeback**. All the best designers are using it as inspiration again.

2. I **bartered** my old bike for a couple of tennis rackets.

3. I always prefer to use **hard cash**. I just don't trust banks.

4. On my 60th birthday party I wound **the clock back** and played all my favourite old music.

5. For me, the Sahara Desert **conjures** images of camels, oases and unbearable heat.