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| Related image | ENG211 Oral Synthesis task: **“Consumerism”** |

* **In this exercise, you will first read a short passage about consumerism, and then listen to an excerpt from a talk on the same topic. You will use this information to complete the synthesizing task. You will listen once.**
* **Now read the excerpt written by Robbins. You have 3 minutes.**

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| Our consumption of goods obviously is a function of our culture. Only by producing and selling things and services does free market economy in its present form work, and the more that is produced and the more that is purchased, the more we have progress and prosperity. The single most important measure of economic growth is the gross national product (GNP), the sum total of goods and services produced by a given society in a given year and it is a measure of the success of a consumer society. Obviously, to consume is the key to prosperity.  Robbins, R. H. (2005), What is consumerism? Retrieved from http://www.triplepundit.com/2013/09/domino-effect- studying-underlying-consequences- lifestyles-environment/ |
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| * Image result for web icon**Now, listen to part of a talk on consumerism and take notes on the views of the speaker.**   Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBjmkNkYkCg> |
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| * **Compare and contrast the ideas Robbins and Mary on consumerism. Remember to include the justifications they provided.** |
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**ANSWER KEY**

Robbins in his article ‘What is Consumerism?’ emphasizes the importance of consumption for the market economy to progress and prosper. Mary, on the other hand, thinks that the spread of consumerism is like a virus. She claims that consumerism is bad for the economy because today cheaper and low-quality goods are imported from countries where labor is cheap, and this doesn’t contribute to the growth of the local economy.