



Instructor's Guide

HOW TO BUY QUALITY FURNITURE

An Overview

Furniture is an important part of your home. Your sofa is where you can relax. Your dinner table is where your family eats. And your bed is where you sleep. In addition, buying furniture can involve spending a lot of money. This program will give you detailed information about the process of buying quality furniture. Topics covered include decisions to make before shopping, furniture construction, and different types of furniture.

Quiz

1. What are some things you need to consider before you buy furniture?
2. Name three places you can shop for furniture.
3. What are some advantages of buying furniture at a full-service store?
4. What is the main advantage of buying furniture at a second-hand, or discount store?
5. List two disadvantages of buying from a second-hand store.
6. When might it be a good idea to rent furniture?
7. Furniture can be made of different materials, like wicker or rattan. Name three more.
8. The type of fabric used on upholstered furniture is important because . . .
9. What is the main disadvantage of leather furniture?
10. How can you learn more about a piece of furniture?
11. Furniture is classified according to its style. Once style is informal. Name the other two styles.
12. Name three different kinds of chairs you might need to buy.

13. Besides price, list two important factors you should consider before buying a piece of furniture.
14. The durability of wood furniture depends on the type of woods and its _____.
15. Upholstered furniture pieces — like sofas and chairs — are made of _____.

Quiz Answers

1. **What are some things you need to consider before you buy furniture?**
Do I already have some furniture? Will it fit into my new living quarters? Will it get heavy, or light use? Will it fit my lifestyle? Should I pay cash or credit? How much can I afford to spend? What are my future furniture needs?
2. **Name three places you can shop for furniture.**
Full-service retail store, discount store, second-hand store, garage sale, auction.
3. **What are some advantages of buying furniture at a full-service store?**
Knowledgeable salespeople, information on manufacturer's guarantees, and better service so you'll come back again.
4. **What is the main advantage of buying furniture at a second-hand, or discount store?**
Price.
5. **List two disadvantages of buying from a second-hand store.**
They may not allow refunds if you aren't happy with your purchase, the furniture has been used, no knowledgeable salespeople, and no manufacturer's guarantees.
6. **When might it be a good idea to rent furniture?**
When you need a lot of furniture for a short period of time.
7. **Furniture can be made of different materials, like wicker or rattan. Name three more.**
Wood, metal, glass, or plastic.
8. **The type of fabric used on upholstered furniture is important because . . .**
It is what you see when you look at the furniture. It is what you touch when you use it. What the fabric is made of determines if it will wear well, fade, stain, or tear.

9. **What is the main disadvantage of leather furniture?**
Its cost.
10. **How can you learn more about a piece of furniture?**
Read the tags, ask a salesperson.
11. **Furniture is classified according to its style. Once style is informal. Name the other two styles.**
Formal and semi-formal.
12. **Name three different kinds of chairs you might need to buy.**
Kitchen chair, recliner, upholstered chairs, rockers, club chair, desk chair.
13. **Besides price, list two important factors you should consider before buying a piece of furniture.**
Where it will be used, what it is made of, how much use will it get, is it comfortable, will it fit my lifestyle, will it fit with the rest of my furniture/living quarters?
14. **The durability of wood furniture depends on the type of woods and its _____. finish**
15. **Upholstered furniture pieces — like sofas and chairs — are made of _____. a frame, springs, padding, and a fabric cover.**

Important Points

- It's important to know how to recognize quality furniture. It can cost a lot of money, and can last for many years. It's also important to choose furniture that is comfortable, functional, and will fit your lifestyle.
- Do you already have some furniture? Will it fit into your new living space? How much can you afford to spend on furniture? How will you pay for it, cash or credit card? These are some of the things you should consider before you start shopping.
- When you're shopping for furniture, you should touch it, sit on it, and find what's comfortable for you. And you should find furniture you like, and can live with for a long time.
- Ask questions and read tags. Ask about the materials used in making a piece of furniture. What is the manufacturer's guarantee? How should you clean and maintain the furniture? Who can you contact for more information?

Topics for Activities and Group Discussion

- **The Cost of Furnishing Your Home.** Have students bring in ads for furniture. Add together the cost of furnishing a living room, dining room, and bedroom, using prices from the ads.
- **Comparing Stores.** Using the ads, have the students look for special incentives or gimmicks used by stores to attract customers. Can you tell which are full-service stores and discount stores? Activity: Visit a full-service furniture store and a discount furniture store.
- **Furniture Construction.** What is furniture made from? Students can consider the furniture in their own homes and list what materials they are made from. They can also examine the tables and desks in the classroom and see the workmanship involved.