Do you enjoy rummaging through old junk in the hope of stumbling on a treasure? ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents language to talk about flea markets.

**Bargain-hunting**

My sister and I are flea-market fiends. We’ll spend hours happily rummaging through boxes of old junk. More often than not, we’ll just pick up a few worthless trinkets, but every now and then, we’ll unearth a real find: a rare first edition, a valuable antique brooch, or a vintage Gucci handbag. My sister has an eye for a bargain and will always find some item or other to add to her collection of curios and bric-a-brac. Someone tried to sell her a knock-off Louis Vuitton bag for £200 the other day, but she spotted the fake a mile away.

Both of us love haggling. We usually end up paying only a fraction of the asking price. Last year at an antiques market in the south of France, we stumbled on a treasure trove of collector’s items, including a priceless Lalique vase.

Once a year, we set up our own stall at a flea market in our neighbourhood. That’s when we get rid of all the useless knick-knacks that we’ve collected over the past year to make room for new acquisitions. After all, we have only so much storage space.
PRACTICE

Now try the following exercises to practise talking about a visit to a flea market.

Exercise 1

Study the illustration on the opposite page and find the words defined below.

A. A man’s formal jacket that is short at the front and has two longer pointed parts at the back is a __________.

B. Plates, cups, bowls and dishes are __________.

C. Necklaces, brooches, etc. that look expensive, but are made with cheap materials, are __________.

D. A model of a person’s or animal’s head made out of stone, metal, etc. is a __________.

E. A small vehicle on wheels in which one pushes a baby around is a __________.

F. A person who sells something, especially in the street or at a market, is a __________.

Exercise 3

Underline the correct option in bold in each of the sentences below.

A. These earrings are __________. I’ll give you €1 for them.

B. Look at this iPhone. Is it real, or is it a __________?

C. This rare art deco table lamp is a __________.

Exercise 2

Match the verbs and verb phrases in bold below (A–F), taken from the text, to their definitions (1–6).

A. If you __________ through something, you...

B. If you __________ something, you...

C. If you __________, you...

D. If you __________ something, you...

E. If you __________ for something, you...

F. If you __________, you...

1. discover something by chance and unexpectedly.

2. create space for something by moving other things.

3. have only a limited quantity of something.

4. discover something by chance or after searching for it.

5. move a lot of things around in order to search for something.

6. can judge whether something is valuable or of high quality.

Exercise 4

The words in the list can all be used to describe things people typically buy and sell at flea markets. Complete the paragraph below with the correct words.

bric-a-brac | curio | junk | knick-knacks | trinkets

(A) __________ are small, cheap objects used as decoration. The uncountable noun (B) __________ has the same meaning. Objects of this kind can also be called (C) __________. This term is used for pieces of jewellery as well. While all these expressions describe things that are pretty but of little value, the word (D) __________ has a more negative meaning: things that are broken, useless and unwanted. A (E) __________, on the other hand, is a small object that is interesting because it is rare or unusual.

Answers

1. A. tailcoat  B. crockery  C. costume jewellery  D. bust  E. pram  F. vendor

2. A–5: B–4; C–6; D–1; E–2; F–3

3. A. worthless  B. knock-off  C. collector’s item

4. A. Knick-knacks  B. bric-a-brac  C. trinkets  D. junk  E. curio

5. A  B  C  D  E