

# Questions

1. Are there many small businesses in your area?
2. Do you prefer shopping at small businesses or big stores?
3. Why do some people prefer to shop at small businesses?
4. Would you ever like to run your own small business?
5. When was the last time you bought something from a small business?

**Please Note:**

Our model answers teach you useful language and give you ideas. However, it is not a good idea to try and memorise them and repeat them in the IELTS exam.

**Sadly** = unfortunately

**tough** = difficult

**companies** = businesses

**to go bankrupt** = unable to pay what you owe, and having control of your financial matters given, by a court of law, to a person who sells your property to pay your debts

1. Are there many small businesses in your area?

**Sadly**, not as many as there used to be. The last few years have been **tough** for all **companies** and many small ones **have gone bankrupt** or shut down.



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**freshly-made stuff** = things that have been recently made or done

**I tend to use** = I usually use

**family-run** = a company owned by a family

**chain stores** = a store that is part of a group of similar stores selling the same type of product

## 2. Do you prefer shopping at small businesses or big stores?

It depends on what I'm buying. If I'm getting **freshly-made stuff** such as bread and cakes, then **I tend to use** small, **family-run** businesses. For other purchases, I find big **chain stores** are cheaper.



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**Generally** = usually

**independent retailers** = privately owned and not controlled by anyone else

**pricey** = expensive

**down to** = due to; because of

**quality** = how good or bad something is

### 3. Why do some people prefer to shop at small businesses?

**Generally**, goods from small, **independent retailers** are a bit **pricier** so it's definitely not **down to** cost. I guess it's because of the **quality** of the products instead.



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**at some point in the future** = at some time in the future

**my short-term plans** = things I plan to do soon

**In the current economic climate** = how the economy is at the moment

**risky** = dangerous

**to set up** = to start

## 4. Would you ever like to run your own small business?

Possibly **at some point in the future**, but it's not in **my short-term plans**. **In the current economic climate**, it's a **risky** time **to set up** a new business.



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**the stuff** = the bread (things)

**fresh** = recently made

**I can't stand** = I hate

**stale** = old and dry

## 5. When was the last time you bought something from a small business?

Last week. I always buy bread from a local shop because I find **the stuff** you get in the supermarket is not very **fresh** and **I can't stand stale** bread.



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