

# Managing money

## Film: Paying with money

Worksheet 15

### Cashless payments – are they really safe?

1. The film lists various security issues when making cashless payments using a card. (Hint: Think of PIN, ATM, contact details!)
  - a) Work with a partner to draw up **“bulls\*\*t” tips on handling credit and bank cards**, in other words rules on how you should definitely not act (the more absurd the better); for instance: “Have your PIN tattooed onto your hand so you don’t forget it!”
  - b) Have a class discussion on why it is important to regularly check all payments made with your card and keep on top of your spending.
2. As described in the following excerpt from a newspaper article, there is another problem that can occur with cashless payments.
  - a) Read the excerpt from the newspaper article below and highlight any words you are not familiar with. Subsequently discuss what they mean together or look them up in a dictionary.

#### **Cashless payments: I know what you bought yesterday**

An analysis by Nadine Oberhuber (excerpts); translation by the Deutsche Bundesbank

[...] These days, supermarket chains do not only offer terminals for contactless payments by card or mobile phone, they also accept prepaid credit cards and offer a cashback service that allows money to be withdrawn from an account at the supermarket checkout. Why do they do that? One reason is to offer customers more service, as they themselves like to proclaim. However, the more important reason may be this: “Every payment transaction generates and records transaction data that ultimately also give key insights into consumers’ behaviour,” is how consultancy firm Lünendonk sums it up. Data analysis allows trading firms to get to know their clients better.” [...]

That enables more targeted advertising. Some already dream of individualised prices, fully tailored to the customer’s willingness to pay. [...] “Most customers are not even aware of the data trail they leave behind with cashless payments and how much information can be gleaned from it,” warns Jaro Krieger-Lamina, expert for information security at the Institute of Technology Assessment of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In most cases, people are not aware of how recognisable that makes them. [...] A lot more can be deduced from all the data generated during a payment transaction, explains Mr Krieger-Lamina: “Of course you know when and where someone used their card to make a purchase and how much money they spent. Where specialised stores are frequented, inferences can also be made as to what products have been bought.” In addition, much can be learned about the structure of someone’s day if they regularly shop before work or during their lunchbreak. Ultimately, Mr Krieger-Lamina says, it is also possible to work out the location of someone’s home and place of work. [...]

Source: <https://www.zeit.de/wirtschaft/2018-06/bargeldloses-bezahlen-karte-handy-daten>  
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