



# SMART JUNIORS 3

Using Money From the Future

**Lesson 15**  
**Read for Detail**

- Listen and review the essay we learned last time.

## Credit Cards: A Double-Edged Sword

- ▶ In the modern era, credit cards have become an integral part of our lives, offering convenience and **flexibility** in financial **transactions**. However, when it comes to teenagers, the question arises: are credit cards a blessing or a curse?



# LISTEN AND REVIEW

- ▶ Credit cards undoubtedly offer numerous benefits. They provide a **seamless** shopping experience, enabling us to make purchases without carrying cash or dealing with the exchanges. Plus, credit cards help teenagers establish a credit history, which is crucial for their financial future. By using a credit card responsibly, they can begin to build a positive credit score, which will be beneficial when applying for loans in the future.



- ▶ However, the flipside of credit cards is just as apparent. Teenagers may not have a fully developed sense of financial responsibility, and could easily overspend. If not managed carefully, credit cards can quickly turn into a financial nightmare, with **high-interest** rates and late fees adding up rapidly. Moreover, if a vicious cycle of debt is formed, it can lead to even more serious financial loss and emotional distress.



# LISTEN AND REVIEW

▶ In my view, credit cards can indeed be a **double-edged** sword for teenagers. Used wisely, they can provide convenience, financial education, and credit history establishment. However, the potential for abuse and the resulting financial consequences are real and should not be ignored. Parents and guardians play a crucial role in guiding teenagers towards responsible credit card usage.



▶ In the end, credit cards are just a **neutral** tool—it's how we use them that makes all the difference. It's up to you to make them work for you or against you. So, let's be smart, disciplined, and responsible with credit cards; maybe your credit card will be your best friend forever.





# READ FOR DETAIL

- **Read paragraph 1 of the essay and answer:**

**What question does this paragraph raise to get readers to think?**

**Quickly find it and read it aloud in five seconds!**



The question is...

## Paragraph 1

In the modern era, credit cards have become an integral part of our lives, offering convenience and flexibility in financial transactions. However, when it comes to teenagers, the question arises: are credit cards a blessing or a curse?

■ **Read paragraph 2 and answer:**

**What is the first advantage/benefit of using credit cards?**

- A** It offers numerous benefits.
- B** It enables you to make purchases without paying cash.
- C** It helps teenagers establish a credit history.
- D** It will be beneficial for applying for loans.

## Paragraph 2

Credit cards undoubtedly offer numerous benefits. They provide a seamless shopping experience, enabling us to make purchases without carrying cash or dealing with the exchanges. Plus, credit cards help teenagers establish a credit history, which is crucial for their financial future. By using a credit card responsibly, they can begin to build a positive credit score, which will be beneficial when applying for loans in the future.

- **Read paragraph 3 and answer:**

**This part talks about the negative sides of using credit cards. What can happen if the cycle of debt is formed?**

- A** even more serious financial loss
- B** emotional distress to teenagers
- C** more serious financial loss and emotional distress
- D** high-interest rates

## Paragraph 3

However, the flipside of credit cards is just as apparent. Teenagers may not have a fully developed sense of financial responsibility, and could easily overspend. If not managed carefully, credit cards can quickly turn into a financial nightmare, with high-interest rates and late fees adding up rapidly. Moreover, if a vicious cycle of debt is formed, it can lead to even more serious financial loss and emotional distress.

## Paragraph 4

In my view, **1.** \_\_\_\_\_.

Used wisely, **2.** \_\_\_\_\_.

However, the potential for abuse and the resulting financial consequences are real and should not be ignored. **3.** \_\_\_\_\_

in guiding teenagers towards responsible credit card usage.

**Three sentences have been removed from paragraph 4. Choose the correct letter to fill in each gap.**

**A** credit cards can indeed be a double-edged sword for teenagers

**B** They might lead to serious debt and financial loss

**C** Parents and guardians play a crucial role

**D** they can provide convenience, financial education, and credit history establishment



## Useful Expressions

They **provide** a seamless shopping experience, **enabling us to** make purchases without carrying cash.

## Let me try!

The library **provides** a self-booking system, **enabling us to** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Useful Expressions

If not managed **carefully**, credit cards **can quickly turn into** a financial nightmare.

## Let me try!

If not managed **carefully**, too many people rushing into the website **can quickly turn into** \_\_\_\_\_.



- **Complete the summary of the essay.**

In modern life, credit cards provide convenience and **fl**\_\_\_\_\_ in transactions. For teenagers, they offer the benefits of **s**\_\_\_\_\_ shopping experiences and establishing a credit history. However, they also pose risks of overspending and **f**\_\_\_\_\_ nightmares if not managed responsibly. Parents and guardians should guide teenagers towards responsible credit card usage. Credit cards are **n**\_\_\_\_\_ tools; it's how we use them that determines their impact.



The background features a close-up of several credit cards, including a blue Visa card and a gold American Express card. A large, semi-transparent yellow triangle is overlaid on the right side of the image. Scattered throughout the scene are several decorative circles in shades of blue, orange, and purple.

# WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we're going to learn some writing skills for an essay. See you next time!