



MISS MONEYSAVER

JASMINE BIRTLES helps you with the cost of living crunch

How to haggle ...even on the High St

YOU might not think it's 'British' to barter in the shops, but haggling has become so popular that extraordinary savings are being made by ordinary customers every day.

In fact, six in ten of us are now haggling to try to counter the rising cost of living, saving an average of £155 a year, according to discount site TopCashback.

And the good news is that be it online or on the High Street, no negotiation is off limits.

Take holidays, for example. Dean Schiavi, of tour operator Tradewinds, says: 'Most tour operators will give travel agents a commission of between 10-20pc, so that's the margin they can fiddle with.'

'Hays Travel and Tui have bigger buying power, so they might get 20pc commission, while the little independents get 10-12pc.'

This means that you have more chance of haggling a decent discount with bigger agencies — you just need to ask.

If you book directly with firms, there may also be wiggle room. First, find out what a hotel is charging per room on comparison

sites such as *Booking.com* and *Opodo.com*. Then call the hotel and ask if they will offer you a deal to book directly instead. Even if they won't budge on price, they may upgrade you or throw in breakfast for free.

Car dealerships are also no strangers to haggling, so try playing rival firms off against each other.

Once you have settled on a make and model, go back and forth between the dealers and tell each one that the other is offering a better price until they won't go any lower.

Then see what extras you can get thrown in for free, such as a satnav.

When you buy is also key. The moment a new model rolls onto the forecourts, dealers are more likely to offer discounts on the older version.

The end of March, June, September and December are also good times to shop for a new car as this is when dealers are under pressure to meet sales targets. For second-hand cars, use the



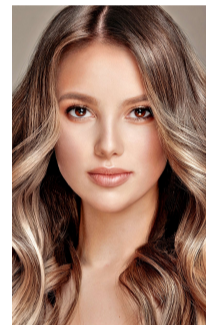
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Model way to boost earnings

WOULD you love to do a bit of modelling but, like me, you don't quite look like Kate Moss? Well, that needn't stop you getting paid handsomely to pose for local businesses.

A while ago, my colleague Vicky got a one-off gig to be a hair model at a show in her local town through the website *Backstage.com*.

She was paid £200 and got a free haircut to boot. And there are all sorts of weird and wonderful one-off jobs like this listed on the website that pay by the hour or project.



Right now, a menswear brand is seeking a 'fitting model' to try out its new range of suits on a real person.

There's also an advert for promotional bar staff to help a drinks brand at festivals and another request for triplets and lookalike siblings to take part in a TV show.

So, if you're looking for the occasional local gig to supplement your income, take a look.

Auto Trader site to find the usual price for the car you want and then scour eBay and Facebook Marketplace for cheaper deals. Then point out any defects, bumps or scratches to barter down the price further.

Just take care not to fall for scams and never buy a car without seeing it first.

When it comes to haggling on the High Street, you will find it much easier if you are dealing with an assistant who earns commission (such as those at shoe chain Office) — and you could find they give you 10pc off almost immediately. Or ask to speak to someone with the authority to reduce prices.

This will be easier if the item clearly has a minor fault, such as a missing button. Most shops will offer a 10pc discount on faulty goods, but you should be able to push this to 20pc —

particularly if you are buying more than one item. If all else fails, see what you can get thrown in for free: accessories, delivery, warranty or similar.

You will also have a better shot at nabbing a discount if you shop at quieter times, such as a Tuesday morning. And always be extra friendly.

If you do most of your shopping online, try leaving the items you plan to buy in your shopping cart and exiting the site.

Many stores will send an email reminder with an exclusive discount code to encourage you to return and finish your purchase.

You can also try messaging the store to ask for a discount using the website's live chat service.

Of course, there is no guarantee that these haggling tips will always yield results — but it is definitely worth a go. After all, the worst anyone can say is no.

■ GOT a question for Jasmine? Email her at AskJasmine@MoneyMagpie.com



DON'T MISS THESE FOOD AND DRINK FREEBIES

STARTLING new statistics revealed this week that the price of basic foods such as pasta have jumped by up to 50pc in the past year.

With experts warning that things may well get worse before they get better, it's up to us to find the bargains — and here are a few to start you off.

SimplyCook.com offers new customers a free box of four recipes and ingredients.

It usually costs £9.99, so be sure you cancel before further payments



are taken. And there is a £1 postage fee. Virgin mobile and 02 customers can get a free drink at Caffe Nero

each month. If you're with 02 you can also get a free Greggs breakfast roll on Friday or Saturday mornings.

KFC fans can get a free side order (including chicken wings and popcorn chicken) by signing up to its loyalty app, The Colonel's Club.

If you download the Taco Bell mobile app and enter a friend's invite code, you will get a free

taco and 50 reward points. Jordan Cox 'Britain's Coupon Kid' says you can use his code: JORDX14409.

The McDonald's app also offers special deals and you will get a free hot drink after downloading it.

For a free can of Pringles, download the cashback app Shopmium and enter the code YU8i9F. The price of the Pringles will be sent to your Paypal account once you have uploaded a photo of your receipt as proof of purchase.

And, finally, you can get two-for-one pizzas at Domino's if you collect it yourself.

Clothing sales fit for royalty

THIS weekend, brands favoured by the Queen, Duchess of Cambridge and other royals are offering fantastic discounts. John Lewis has cut the price of some jackets by popular country-wear brand Barbour.

At Marks & Spencer there is a Summer Beauty Bag deal where you can bag £160 of products for £25 when you spend £30 on clothing, and up to 30pc off lingerie.

Aspinal of London, loved by Kate and Princess Beatrice, is offering up to 50pc off bags and accessories, including many of its signature styles. Hunter, wellie-maker to the royals, has up to 30pc off its classic and newer styles.

And trainer label Superga, also regularly worn by Kate, has huge savings on many of its popular styles, with prices starting at just £16.50 per pair.

Boden is similarly offering big savings this weekend. Oh, and if you would like your children to channel little Prince George meeting Barack Obama in his 'My 1st Years' white robe, you can get 15pc off everything on its website with the code 'Jubilee'.