

Going to the Barber

In this lesson, you will learn words and expressions that male customers use when they go to a barber. You will also learn how to describe specific hairstyles that men commonly wear.

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What hairstyle does your closest male friend have?
2. What is the difference between a barbershop and a hair salon?
3. What type of facial hair do some men have?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. the usual | a) to remove all of the hair from the skin in a certain area |
| _____ 2. buzz cut | b) an electric razor for cutting hair very short |
| _____ 3. shave | c) a very short military-style cut |
| _____ 4. hang tight | d) the style or type one usually asks for |
| _____ 5. clippers | e) to look good on someone |
| _____ 6. slicked back | f) wait right here for a short time |
| _____ 7. gel | g) hair that grows along the side of the face below the ears |
| _____ 8. beard | h) a styling product that makes dry hair appear wet |
| _____ 9. suit | i) a bit hairy, not clean-shaven |
| _____ 10. scruffy | j) hair that grows on the chin |
| _____ 11. sideburns | k) smooth skin that has just been shaved |
| _____ 12. clean-shaven | l) pulling the hair to the back of the head and holding it back with a styling product that keeps the hair looking wet |

Dialogue Reading

Read the dialogue with your partner a few times. Take turns being each character. Practice your intonation and pronunciation. Circle any new words or phrases that you need to practice.

Barber: Hi, Max. **Just the usual today?**

Customer: Actually, I'd like it a bit shorter than usual.

Barber: Okay. **How short are we talking?** Do you want a buzz cut?

Customer: Well, **I don't want you to shave it all off**, but I'd like it as short as possible.

Barber: Okay. **Hang tight while I grab my clippers.** So, is there a special occasion?

Customer: Sort of. I got a new job at a restaurant. I'm working in the kitchen.

Barber: Congratulations. Let me guess. Your boss wants it short. I thought it might be a new girlfriend.

Customer: **My girlfriend would rather I wear it long and slicked back with gel. She keeps asking me to grow a beard, too.**

Barber: **I don't think you'd suit the scruffy look**, Max. Now, what about your sideburns? Are they coming off, too?

Customer: Yes, please. I need to be clean-shaven. Restaurant guests can see the kitchen from the dining area.

Practice

Work with your partner. Role-play the dialogue on page 2, substituting the different expressions below. Then switch roles.

1. **Just the usual today?**

- Are we doing the same as always?
- Just a trim today?
- Are we just cleaning things up today?

2. **How short are we talking?**

- How short do you mean?
- How much do you want off?

3. **Don't shave it all off.**

- Don't take it all off.
- Leave a little bit of length.
- I don't want to be bald.

4. **Hang tight while I grab my clippers.**

- I'm just going to grab my other scissors.
- Just one sec. I need to grab a different razor.
- I've just got to get my clippers.

5. **My girlfriend would rather I wear it long and slicked back with gel.**

- My girlfriend wishes I'd put mousse in my hair.
- My girlfriend wants me to part it in the middle.
- If my girlfriend had it her way, I'd have shoulder-length hair.

6. **She keeps asking me to grow a beard, too.**

- She thinks I should have a moustache.
- She wants me to grow sideburns.

7. **I don't think you'd suit the scruffy look, Max.**

- You wouldn't suit a ponytail, Max.
- You look better with short hair.
- You look better clean-shaven.

Listening Practice

Listen to the recording of the dialogue from page 2. Fill in the missing words as you listen. Listen again. Now look back at page 2 and check your work. Did you fill in the correct words? Did you spell everything correctly?

Barber: Hi, Max. Just the _____ today?

Customer: Actually, I'd like it a bit _____ than usual.

Barber: Okay. How short _____? Do you want a _____?

Customer: Well, I don't want you to shave it all off, but I'd like it as short as possible.

Barber: Okay. Hang tight while I grab my _____. So, is there a special occasion?

Customer: Sort of. I got a new job in a restaurant. I'm working in the kitchen.

Barber: Congratulations. Let me guess. Your boss wants it short.
I thought it might be a new girlfriend.

Customer: My girlfriend would _____ I wear it long and slicked
back with _____. She keeps asking me to grow a beard, too.

Barber: I don't think you'd suit the scruffy look, Max.
Now, what about your _____? Are they coming off, too?

Customer: Yes, please. I need to be _____.
Restaurant guests can see the kitchen from the dining area.

Work with your partner. Classify the words below under the correct headings. Check off each word as you use it. Try to form a sentence or question with each word. Can you think of any other words?

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> scissors | <input type="checkbox"/> clippers | <input type="checkbox"/> spray bottle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gel | <input type="checkbox"/> shears | <input type="checkbox"/> towel |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> razor | <input type="checkbox"/> straight | <input type="checkbox"/> bald |
| <input type="checkbox"/> thin out | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> spiky | <input type="checkbox"/> shave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> comb | <input type="checkbox"/> slicked back | <input type="checkbox"/> mousse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> brush | <input type="checkbox"/> mirror | <input type="checkbox"/> chop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shampoo | <input type="checkbox"/> shoulder-length | <input type="checkbox"/> hairspray |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> trim | <input type="checkbox"/> blow-dry | <input type="checkbox"/> wavy |

[illegible]

Write Your Own Dialogue

Write a dialogue with a partner using phrases from page 3.
One of you will be a customer and one of you will be a barber.
Practice and present the dialogue to your class.

[illegible]

Review

Task 1

LISTEN & ANSWER

Listen to the conversation and answer the questions.
Your teacher will tell you if you have to write or say the answers.

1. What is Max's main reason for going to the barbershop today?

2. What main tool will the barber use to cut Max's hair?

3. How does today's cut differ from Max's usual style?

4. What does Max's girlfriend want Max to do?

5. Why does Max need to remove his sideburns?

Review cont.

Task 2

QUESTION FORMATION

A. Questions

Write five questions a barber might ask you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

B. Answers

Write five possible answers to the questions above.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Task 3

ROLE-PLAY

Find a partner. Imagine that one of you is the barber and one of you is the customer. Use your questions to do a role-play for your teacher.