

Shopping

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Shopping

A. Discussion

Discuss the following questions in groups.

1. Do you enjoy shopping?
2. How does shopping in this country differ from shopping in your country? Discuss types of stores and merchandise, methods of payment, return policies, salespeople, etc.
3. Do you shop at convenience stores very often? What kind of products do you buy there?
4. Is it customary to "bargain" on prices in your country?
5. Is Internet shopping popular in your country? What do you usually buy on the Internet?
6. Do you receive any catalogs? Which ones?
7. Would you prefer to go to a store that has better service or cheaper prices?
8. How do you usually pay for your purchases (by credit card, debit card, gift card, in cash)?
9. How often do you go to the grocery store?
10. Who usually does the grocery shopping in your family?
11. Where do you usually shop for groceries? Why do you shop there?
12. Are most stores in your country open seven days a week? Are there many stores that are open 24 hours a day?
13. Do you think that credit cards make people spend too easily?
14. Do you buy "on impulse" very often or do you usually plan your purchases?
15. What is the best known store in your country? What does it sell?

B. Type of Stores

Work in groups. What kind of items can you find at the different types of stores listed below?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Department store | 5. Hardware store |
| 2. Grocery store | 6. Sporting goods store |
| 3. Drugstore | 7. Stationery store |
| 4. Convenience store | 8. Linen store |

At the Grocery Store

A. Sorting

Look at the list of items below and place them in the correct sections of the grocery store.

Word List:

- lettuce
- doughnuts
- shampoo
- sliced ham
- ice cream
- salmon
- butter
- muffins
- fresh potato salad
- SOS pads
- hair spray
- bananas
- paper towels
- strawberries
- laundry detergent
- tin of peas
- whipping cream
- furniture polish
- chicken wings
- popcorn
- soup
- napkins
- potato chips
- yogurt
- fresh shrimp

Did you know?

Most grocery stores are arranged in a similar way. They are designed to make the customers spend more money than they had planned.

Most stores place their fresh baked goods, fruit and vegetables, and deli sections near the entrances of the stores. These goods are of course more appealing than canned or packaged goods, which are found in the aisles in the middle of the store.

You will also notice that candies, chocolates, magazines, and other small, inexpensive items are placed very close to the checkout counters so people who are standing in line will likely buy them on impulse.

dairy	produce	bakery	fresh meat/ poultry	fish/seafood	deli
frozen foods	canned goods	snack foods	beauty & health	cleaning supplies	paper goods

At the Grocery Store cont.

B. Matching

We use different expressions of quantity for different products.

Match the quantities on the left with the correct products on the right.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| _____ 1. a can of | a) bananas |
| _____ 2. a bottle of | b) ketchup |
| _____ 3. a loaf of | c) toothpaste |
| _____ 4. a box of | d) eggs |
| _____ 5. a bar of | e) yogurt |
| _____ 6. a tube of | f) bread |
| _____ 7. a bag of | g) toilet paper |
| _____ 8. a dozen | h) soap |
| _____ 9. a roll of | i) lettuce |
| _____ 10. a bunch of | j) potato chips |
| _____ 11. a head of | k) tuna fish |
| _____ 12. a container of | l) laundry detergent |

Shopping Opportunities

A. Vocabulary

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. consumer | a) a place where people live |
| _____ 2. range | b) lower price than usual |
| _____ 3. suburban area | c) to look like |
| _____ 4. primarily | d) unwilling, not wanting to do something |
| _____ 5. utensils | e) user, buyer |
| _____ 6. residential area | f) things that are bought and sold |
| _____ 7. resemble | g) variety |
| _____ 8. reluctant | h) mostly |
| _____ 9. merchandise | i) to buy |
| _____ 10. purchase | j) knives, forks, spoons, etc. |
| _____ 11. refund | k) residential area away from the downtown |
| _____ 12. discount | l) to give money back |

B. Reading

1. Shopping practices have changed a great deal from the old days of the barter system. In the past, if people needed an item, they would simply exchange something they already had for the thing they wanted. Nowadays, our society is **consumer-oriented** and the opportunities for shopping are endless.
2. Department stores are large stores that carry a wide **range** of goods such as clothing, furniture, household items, cosmetics, toys, etc. These stores usually consist of several floors and often occupy a large downtown city block or a large amount of space in a **suburban** shopping mall. They are often part of a chain of stores that are located throughout the country. Grocery stores are **primarily** food stores, but they also carry many non-food items such as cleaning and bath supplies, paper goods, small kitchen

utensils, and small hardware items, etc. Grocery stores are primarily located in **residential areas**. Convenience stores such as 7-Eleven sell common food items, newspapers, magazines, candy, etc. These kinds of stores are usually open seven days a week and often twenty-four hours a day. Their prices are usually higher than traditional grocery stores and they have much less variety of goods, but they are very popular because of their convenient locations and hours of operation. Drugstores in North America may be very different from the pharmacies in your country. Drugstores here sell many items besides medicine. You will usually find cosmetics, health and beauty supplies, paper goods, books, magazines, soft drinks and candy. Big box stores or wholesale clubs are becoming increasingly popular nowadays. These large **discount** stores **resemble** warehouses. They carry a huge amount of **merchandise**

Shopping Opportunities cont.

B. Reading cont.

including groceries, household items, electronic equipment, etc. Most of the food items are sold in large quantities. You often have to buy a yearly membership to shop in these kinds of stores.

3. Catalog shopping, Internet shopping and shopping channels on television are also popular. However, some consumers are still **reluctant to purchase** goods in this manner. Some people prefer to buy certain products such as clothing in person so they can try it on to see that it fits. Other shoppers are afraid to give their credit card numbers over the Internet, so still prefer to shop in traditional stores. Books, music, and airline or concert tickets are very popular purchases on the Internet.
4. Boutiques are small stores that usually specialize in particular goods such as clothing or giftware and they often carry more unusual and more expensive products. Second-hand stores or consignment stores and garage sales sell used items and are very popular for those shoppers who are interested in finding good bargains.
5. Wherever you shop, always be sure to ask about the store's return policy. Most large department stores allow customers to exchange or return items for a full **refund** if the product is unsatisfactory or if you simply change your mind about the purchase, as long as you have not used or worn the item. Some small stores allow exchanges only, but not refunds. Others may give credit notes for the returned item. They will give you a card or note that will allow you to make another purchase in their store for the same amount as the returned item. Most small stores do not allow returns or exchanges on sale items.
6. Credit cards and easy financing have made it possible for shoppers to buy many items even if they do not have the money available. Many retailers advertise, "Buy now, Pay later" or "No down payment and no payments for 12 months." Unfortunately, the ability to get easy financing often causes people to spend much more than they can really afford. Before you make your next purchase, think about the following advice: "You can always sleep better on an old bed that is paid for than on a new one that isn't."

C. Comprehension

Answer the following questions in your notebook or with a partner.

1. What was the barter system?
2. Give an example from your city of each of the following kinds of stores:
 - a) department store
 - b) convenience store
 - c) wholesale club
 - d) second-hand store
 - e) grocery store
 - f) drugstore
 - g) boutique
 - h) chain store
3. Why do many people not like to buy clothing from a catalog or the Internet?
4. What kind of goods are popular Internet purchases?
5. Why should you be very careful before you buy an item at a garage sale?
6. Explain the last line in the reading.

Garage Sales

A. Discussion

1. Have you ever been to a garage sale or had your own garage sale?
2. What kind of things do people typically buy at garage sales?
3. Do you think people who hold garage sales are more interested in making money or cleaning out their houses?

B. Vocabulary

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. popular | a) held together |
| _____ 2. convenient | b) to leave, start to go |
| _____ 3. get rid of | c) bug spray |
| _____ 4. bargain | d) to go back again the same way you came |
| _____ 5. hobby | e) easy, comfortable, suitable |
| _____ 6. treasure | f) a person who buys and sells |
| _____ 7. route | g) to buy |
| _____ 8. local | h) to finish |
| _____ 9. head out | i) liked by many people |
| _____ 10. backtrack | j) in, of the area |
| _____ 11. dealer | k) to look for, try to find |
| _____ 12. snatch up | l) to throw away, sell, not have anymore |
| _____ 13. purchase | m) to get or take something quickly |
| _____ 14. defect | n) something you do for enjoyment |
| _____ 15. refund | o) to test to see if it fits |
| _____ 16. insecticide | p) a good deal, a cheap purchase |
| _____ 17. try on | q) something you value |
| _____ 18. end up | r) money back |
| _____ 19. joint | s) a road, way |
| _____ 20. hunt | t) a problem, something wrong |

Garage Sales cont.

C. Reading

1. Garage sales are very **popular** in Canada and the United States. Many homeowners believe that garage sales are a **convenient** way to **get rid of** old, unwanted items such as clothing, furniture, toys, books, etc., and at the same time to make some extra cash. **Bargain** hunters also love garage sales for the interesting items and wonderful prices they may find.
2. Sometimes several neighbors will get together and arrange a street or block garage sale. Because there are so many things for sale in these **joint** garage sales, they attract a lot of buyers. Most garage sales are held on the weekends. In fact, some people make a **hobby** of going to garage sales. They like to spend their Saturday and Sunday mornings **hunting** for unusual and inexpensive **treasures**.
3. If you want to be a successful buyer at garage sales, you may be interested in the following tips:
 - Plan your **route** ahead of time. Read the garage sale ads in the **local** newspaper and decide what kind of items you may want to see. Look at a city map and decide where you are going to go before you **head out**. This way you won't waste time **backtracking**.
 - Arrive early in the day. Professional **dealers** always arrive first. These are people who make their living by buying and selling goods. The dealers always try to **snatch up** the best buys, so if you arrive too late, you may not find much of value.
 - Examine the items carefully before you decide to make a **purchase**. Check for flaws or **defects**. If you cannot repair an item yourself, it probably is not worth buying. Look for something else. Remember, there are no **refunds** at garage sales.
 - If you are buying used furniture, check for bugs. If you are unsure about the condition of the item, spray it with an **insecticide** or disinfectant before you take it into your own house.
 - If you are buying chairs or sofas, test them out to see if they are comfortable. If you are buying an item of clothing, **try it on**.
 - The most important thing to remember is to learn to bargain. If the price says \$5.00, why not try for \$3.00? Bargaining can be half the fun of going to garage sales.
 - If you buy too many things you don't really need, you may **end up** needing to have a garage sale of your own very soon. Have fun the next time you go to a garage sale. Happy shopping!