

# 15

## Shopping Around

### Text 1

### Is it Fun? Or is it Torture?

To most of us shopping is a task that simply has to be done in order to get the items that we need for life. Sometimes we can really enjoy it, but at other times we hate it. However, people are different and they think differently about this topic.

To many people shopping is a form of relaxation and entertainment. These people often like window shopping. Window shopping is an activity that people do by going from shop to shop; to pass the time, to have fun or to make plans for their future shopping activities.

To some, shopping is a boring and exhausting task. Sometimes you have to go to many shops until you find the item you need or that you want to buy, you also have to spend a lot of time standing in long queues, and there are always a lot of people around.

Shopaholism has recently appeared; this new “disease” of modern civilisation makes people go shopping all the time and buy loads of goods that they do not need at all.

Shopping is one of the oldest activities practised by people; it can be traced back to many civilisations in history. In ancient Rome it was Trajan’s Market where people exchanged their money for different goods. The oldest shopping list was found around Hadrian’s Wall, in the north of England; so it might be about 1,900 years old!

Where do people usually go shopping? In old times markets, the centres of shopping activities, used to be right in the middle of cities and towns. So the different shops were also built around the markets; it was convenient for the shoppers and useful for the shop keepers.

In modern cities and towns still many stores and bigger or smaller shops are in city and town centres. However, more and more shopping malls, supermarkets, hypermarkets and huge stores are built in outside areas. These places tend to be not only the centres of shopping activities but also centres of entertainment. There are lots of restaurants, cafes, pubs, arcades in and around them, where you can spend time – and of course spend money. But you can also find there cinemas, art exhibitions, internet cafes. More and more bookstores organise various cultural programmes; literary discussions, music performances.

With modern technology – such as television, the telephone and the internet – people who are not that keen on going shopping, or have very little time, can easily do “home shopping”. There are various different kinds; you can buy or order printed catalogues, choose the item you need, and order it by mail or by phone. Or you can do your shopping online; you go on the website of a shop, choose the item, put it into your virtual basket and pay for it using your credit card. The item then will be sent to you by mail delivery system. Online shopping is more and more popular with people, and there are shops and stores that can only be found on the internet.

*Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shopping>*

## Text 2

## Smart Shopping

There are ways of getting what you want without paying top money. Here are some of them:

**Don't shop as entertainment.** When you hang out at the mall on a Saturday afternoon, you see things you don't need. But because you see them, you want them.

**Shop on sales.** If you shop the big sales to buy the needed items, your shopping stays focused, and you get more for your money. But don't buy just because something is on sale. Do you really need it?

**Wait for the sale.** When you see something you like, ask a salesperson if the item will go on sale anytime soon.

**If you want to buy a present to someone, don't do it in the last minute.** If you plan ahead, you may be able to get something in a sale. If you do it in the last minute and you cannot find just the right thing, you may spend much more money on something else.

**Shop in places other than the mall.** There are plenty of them. Malls and large shopping centres use very tricky ways of getting lots of money out of you and making you buy things that you don't need at all.

**Don't think saving a little here and a little there is not worth the effort.** You will be surprised how much more money you will have that you can spend on items you really want to – but only if you are a smart shopper and don't let yourself to be tricked and cheated.

#### ➤ Smart Shopping in the Supermarket

Despite the music, supermarket shopping can be interesting. Check out these tips for smart and healthy supermarket shopping.

You can go to a supermarket almost anytime you want – many are open 24 hours. **Choosing a time and place** for your food shopping can help you shop smarter.

**Don't shop when you're hungry.** If your stomach is empty when you enter the store, you'll buy much more than you wanted; you'll feel like you can eat up everything around you. Eat a healthy snack or meal before you go to the supermarket.

**Choose the supermarket that is the best for you.** If you have a choice on where to shop, think about the kinds of things that you want the store to have. If you know where to find the things you want, it will help you get out of the store faster, so you won't buy items that you really don't need.

**Do your shopping when there are not so many people around in the shop.** Try to avoid stores when they're likely to be busiest – after work hours (weekdays between 5 and 7 p.m.) and weekend mornings, for example. The best time to shop is very early in the morning, weekend evenings, or on a popular TV night.

**Make a list and use it.** You have thousands of foods to choose from in a supermarket, so it's easy to buy more than you wanted or forget something you really need. Making a list saves time in the store. It might also save money!

Source: [http://kidshealth.org/teen/food\\_fitness/nutrition/grocery\\_shopping.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/food_fitness/nutrition/grocery_shopping.html)



## Tasks to the texts

**1. Read the sentences below and see whether they are true or false. Text 1 might help you. There is an example for you.**

- 0 In old times markets and shops were outside the city centres, because they were dirty and smelly.   F
- 1 People who are shopaholics buy a lot of things that they don't need. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 The goods of some shops are only available online. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Nobody likes shopping; everyone thinks that it's a waste of time. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 The oldest shopping list is from the Roman times and it was found in the north of Rome. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Some people dislike shopping because it's not always easy to find the item you need. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 More and more big stores and shopping centres are built far from cities and towns. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Online shopping used to be popular, but fewer and fewer people like it nowadays. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Modern shopping facilities also tend to become the centres of cultural life. \_\_\_\_\_

**2. After reading Text 2 collect what you should and what shouldn't do if you want to be a smart shopper. There are two examples for you.**

You should	You shouldn't
<p>➤ get everything in a smart way; think before buy</p>	<p>➤ shop as entertainment</p>

**3. Do the task below choosing from options a), b) or c). The text about smart shopping will help you. The first one is done for you.**

- 0 It's not the best idea to shop in malls, because
- you shouldn't listen to music that you can hear there.
  - these places might make you spend more money than you wanted.
  - it's expensive to travel to the outside area of your city.

- 1 You shouldn't go shopping for food on an empty stomach, because
  - a) you start eating the food you've bought before paying for it.
  - b) you might feel dizzy.
  - c) when you're hungry, you buy more than you need to.
  
- 2 It's good to shop in sales, because
  - a) people are more polite then.
  - b) you can get the items you need much cheaper.
  - c) there are no long queues at times of sales.
  
- 3 To be a smart supermarket shopper, you
  - a) should choose the right time and place for your shopping.
  - b) have to ask someone to go shopping with you.
  - c) must take very little money with you.
  
- 4 Don't shop as entertainment, because
  - a) you'll waste the salesperson's time.
  - b) you might get used to shopping all the time and spending more and more money.
  - c) you'll miss popular TV programmes.
  
- 5 Saving a little here and a little there is worth doing, because you
  - a) can make a longer shopping list next time.
  - b) get tired of thinking about saving and you don't go shopping any more.
  - c) can save money that you can spend on items you really would like to buy.
  
- 6 If you don't buy everything at once, but wait until they're put on sale,
  - a) you can get the items cheaper.
  - b) someone else can buy it before you go back to the store to get it.
  - c) you can enjoy waiting to get the item.
  
- 7 If you go to the supermarket when there are few people around,
  - a) you can chat with the salespersons for a long time.
  - b) you can get some items cheaper.
  - c) you don't have to stand in long queues.
  
- 8 If you make a shopping list,
  - a) you can choose the items that are cheaper.
  - b) you won't buy a lot more than you wanted.
  - c) you have something to read while standing in a queue.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B								

4. Read the sentences below and write the words or expressions that they are about. There is an example for you.

- 0 This is an activity; when people do it, they look around in shops to entertain themselves, to have a great time or to make plans about what they will buy in the future: window shopping
- 1 They were usually in the centre of a city and there were lots of shops around them:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 If you do that, you can shop without leaving your home: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 It was a shopping place in ancient Rome: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 It's a new type of illness in modern civilisations: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 There are cinemas, restaurants, art exhibitions, cafes and other facilities in or around them:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 It's the oldest one we know of; it's about 1,900 years old! \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 You need internet connection, an online catalogue and a credit card to be able to do it:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Some people hate shopping, because they have to stand in these: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 They usually are in the outside areas: \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 They can't be found anywhere but on the internet and use virtual shopping baskets:  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Vocabulary practice

1. You can find the names of different shops in the left column below and their definitions in the right hand one. Please match them. The first one is an example for you.

1 supermarket	a) a shop that sells bread and cakes
2 corner shop	b) a very large shop which has got different parts; each part sells different items such as clothes, toys, furniture etc.
3 baker's	c) a shop that sells medicines, beauty and baby products
4 butcher's	d) an area outside where people sell and buy many different items
5 chemist's	e) an area in the town where there are lots of shops
6 greengrocer's	f) a large shop that sells food, cleaning materials and other things that people buy regularly
7 newsagent's	g) a large building with lots of shops inside it, and there are also restaurants, cinemas, etc. in it
8 department store	h) a shop that sells meat

9 DIY store	i) a shop that sells newspapers and magazines, chocolates, etc.
10 shopping centre	j) a shop that sells fruits and vegetables
11 shopping mall	k) a small shop – usually on the corner of the street – where you can buy food, magazines, other small items
12 market	l) a large shop that sells equipment and tools that you can decorate your home and garden with

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
F											

2. Read the short texts below and fill in the gaps with the words given to you. The first one is done for you.

1.

*checkout counter, on display, departments, gondolas, (cart/trolley), shelves, aisles*

When you enter a supermarket, first you have to take a shopping basket or, if you want to buy a lot of items, a **cart / trolley**. Fresh products, such as bread and rolls, meat and fish, cheese and cold cuts are usually sold by salespersons in small \_\_\_\_\_, or you can find them \_\_\_\_\_ and you can take the items you like. Other items are put on \_\_\_\_\_ or on long \_\_\_\_\_. Between them there are \_\_\_\_\_ where you can walk along and collect the items you need. Finally you go to a \_\_\_\_\_, where you pay for all the items you've bought.

2.

*store detectives, trolleys, shop assistant, shoplifters, shop keeper, manager*

The word "salesperson" is used in the USA, in Britain this person is called a \_\_\_\_\_. The carts that you push around in supermarkets are called \_\_\_\_\_ in Britain. The person who has got a small shop is a \_\_\_\_\_, but if it's a big shop or a store, there is a \_\_\_\_\_ who organises work. There are big mirrors and \_\_\_\_\_ around to catch \_\_\_\_\_.

3. a) Read the sentences below and find out whether they are usually said by a shop assistant (S) or a customer (C). The first two sentences are done for you.

- 0 Do you have this in size 10? C
- 00 Are you paying in cash or by credit card? S

- 1 It's too tight for me. Do you have a bigger size? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What size are you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Thank you. Here's your change. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 I need some nice shoes that would match with my red handbag. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 I'm looking for a pair of long boots. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 You can find the dressing rooms on the right. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 How much does it cost? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 They're too expensive for me, I'm afraid. Do you have something cheaper? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 We've got the same model in blue. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Are these jeans on sale? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. b) Here you can find some more sentences. You can pair them up with the sentences in 3. a) to get mini conversations. There are two examples for you.**

- 0 – c): Do you have this in size 10?  
Let me see... yes, here you are.
- 00 – g): Are you paying in cash or by credit card?  
I'll pay in cash.
- a) I'm size 8.
  - b) Thank you. Can I try on all the three models?
  - c) Let me see... yes, here you are.
  - d) These ones perhaps? They're much cheaper.
  - e) What size are you? We've got some nice pair of black boots. They're the latest fashion.
  - f) Yes, they are. You'll get £ 7 off the usual price.
  - g) I'll pay by cash.
  - h) Thank you and good bye.
  - i) It comes to £16.99.
  - j) Too tight? Here you are. This one is a little bit looser.
  - k) We don't have red shoes at the moment, I'm afraid.
  - l) No, I don't like blue. What other colours do you have?

0	00	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C	G										

**4. Put the following items into the different boxes to show where you would go to buy them. There are three examples for you.**

*half a kilo of tomatoes, paracetamol, a kid's magazine, a kilo of pork, sausages, a loaf of bread, a bottle of baby shampoo, a can of green peas, a roll of bandage, a paintbrush, a box of chocolate biscuits, 4 crispy apples, a hammer, a piece of apple pie, a bus ticket, painkiller, some bread rolls, wallpaper, a nice bunch of bananas, a chicken, a chisel, a tub of glue, some slices of beef, a daily newspaper, a bar of chocolate*

baker's	butcher's	newsagent's	DIY store	chemist's	green-grocer's
a loaf of bread		a kid's magazine	a chisel		



**Speaking**

**1. a) Work in pairs. One of you is the customer, the other one is the shop assistant. Using the mini-dialogues from section B task 3 act out a scene in a clothes shop. Here are some clues for you.**

*Customer:* You would like a pair of blue jeans.

*Shop assistant:* Ask about the size.

*Customer:* Size 10.

*Shop assistant:* No blue jeans in that size. Only black and pink ones.

*Customer:* You hate black. You would like to see the pink ones.

*Shop assistant:* Give them to the customer. Show the dressing room.

*Customer:* You've tried them on, but they're too tight. You ask for bigger ones.

*Shop assistant:* You can't find any. Size 12 only come in green.

*Customer:* Try them on. They fit perfectly. Ask for the price.

*Shop assistant:* £24.

*Customer:* Too expensive. Can't afford it.

*Shop assistant:* Yes, they are expensive but beautiful pullovers are on sale. They match the green jeans.

*Customer:* Ask to see them.

*Shop assistant:* Show them. Tell him/her that they're only £4 each.

*Customer:* Choose a white and green one.

*Shop assistant:* Tell the customer that they look great on him/her.

*Customer:* You'll take the pullover and the jeans as well. Ask about the price.

*Shop assistant:* £28 altogether. Ask the customer whether he/she pays in cash or by credit card.

*Customer:* By credit card.

**1. b) Using your own ideas act out a similar dialogue in a shoe shop. Start like this:**

S: Good morning. How can I help you?

C: Good morning. I'm looking for a pair of strong trainers.

S: What size are you?

C: Size 3.

S: What colour would you like?

**2. Based on the chart below compare shopping in a big supermarket and in a corner shop. You can add your own ideas as well. Then prepare talking about the topic. Start like that:**

Shopping in a supermarket is always cheaper than shopping in a corner shop. In supermarkets you have a much wider choice as well. But the shop assistants are not so kind; they don't really have time to chat with you...

Shopping in a supermarket	Shopping in a corner shop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ it's cheaper</li> <li>➤ a much wider choice</li> <li>➤ you need time to look for and collect the items</li> <li>➤ shop assistants are not always kind</li> <li>➤ vegetables and fruits are not so fresh and tasty</li> <li>➤ lots of delicious products</li> <li>➤ you can buy other products, not only food</li> <li>➤ you usually buy items that you didn't want to</li> <li>➤ lots of packaging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ you can have a nice chat with the shop keeper and the other customers</li> <li>➤ it's usually closer to your home</li> <li>➤ you need less time to do the shopping</li> <li>➤ you can choose easier; not so many products</li> <li>➤ the fruits and vegetables are much fresher</li> <li>➤ more fresh food; less chemicals</li> <li>➤ you only buy what you wanted to</li> <li>➤ they use less packaging</li> </ul>

**3. Work in pairs. One of you is going to the shops. Discuss what you need from the shops. Ask and answer using the clues below.**

**Student A:**

- Your partner is going shopping.
- You want to make an apple pie.
- You have: half a kilo of apples, only 2 eggs, flour, 1 vanilla stick
- You need: half a kilo of sugar, 4 more eggs, baking powder, a litre of milk

**Student B:**

- You're going to the shops.
- You want to cook something and you want to buy some slices of meat and a kilo of potatoes.
- Tell it to your partner and ask what he/she needs from the shops.

**Use the prompts below:**

- What would you like from the shops? / Would you like me to buy...? / Do you need some...? / Would you like a...?
- How much/How many ... would you like? / How much/How many ... have we got? / Do we need any...?
- I'd like to... / I'd need a... / Please buy me some...
- We've got some... / We haven't got any... / There is/are some...

**Start like this:**

A: I'm going to the shops. I need to buy some slices of meat.

B: Why? Are you going to cook something tonight?

A: Yes. So I will need meat and then I'm going to the greengrocer's to buy...

**4. What are the advantages and the disadvantages of shopping online? Please look through the points of the chart below and add your own ideas. Then discuss it in small groups.**

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ you can buy things sitting in front of the computer; don't have to go out of the house, don't have to travel anywhere, don't have to wait and stand in queues</li> <li>➤ items are cheaper online</li> <li>➤ you can buy items from all over the world (e.g. from a New Zealand store)</li> <li>➤ you can do your shopping day and night (any time)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ you might miss talking to other people, see, smell and touch the items</li> <li>➤ you can't try things on</li> <li>➤ things might look much nicer in catalogues than they really are</li> <li>➤ you need to have a credit card</li> </ul>

**Start like this:**

A: So what do you think of buying things online?

B: I think it's great. You don't have to go out of your house at all! No shops, no crowds of people around, no long queues...

A: But you can't see the items you buy... you can only see photos of them...



**Homework Idea**

Do some research on the food shopping habits of your family. Take notes and prepare to talk about the topic. The questions

below might help you. Of course you can use your own ideas, if you like them better.

- How often do you go shopping?
- Where do you usually do your shopping? Why?
- Who does the shopping?
- Where do you buy the daily products (fresh fruit, vegetable, fresh milk, etc.)?
- How much fresh food do you buy?
- How much canned/frozen food do you buy?
- How much ready-to-eat food do you buy?
- Do you care about how much packaging the items have?
- Do you think of the 5+ rule? (You should eat 5 or more servings of fruit and vegetables a day.)