

EVERYDAY LIFE

TALKING SHOP

Age: Teenager/Adult

Level: Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time: 30 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. learn shopping expressions
2. complete a shopping dialogue
3. role-play buying clothes
4. match descriptions and objects
5. practise describing objects

Language focus: shopping expressions, describing / defining objects

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

PROCEDURE

Ask students to work in pairs and make a list of expressions people use when they go shopping. Write some of these on the board, correcting and improving the English as you do so.

Hand out copies of the worksheet. Students do Exercise 1. Check answers and work on the pronunciation of the expressions. Ask students what type of shop they could use these expressions in. (*Answer: in a clothes shop.*)

Tell students they are going to put the expressions in a conversation. Students do Exercise 2. Check answers.

Students practise the conversation in pairs until they have memorized it.

As an extension activity, ask everyone in the class to put their coats and jackets in one place. Students work in pairs and take turns as a shop assistant and customer. The customers want to buy a coat or jacket and the shop assistants have to try to sell them one. The customer can try on different models and discuss the size, colour and style with the shop assistant. The role play ends when the customer chooses a coat or jacket, or decides to leave the shop. Students swap roles and repeat.

Ask students how you can ask for something in a shop if you don't know the name for it. (*Answer: by describing it and what it's used for.*)

Students do Exercise 3. They read the descriptions of objects and match each with a picture. Check answers and also the names of the objects.

Focus on ways to describe something, e.g.

- *you use it for + ing*
- *it's a round, square, rectangular thing*
- *it's made of glass, wood, plastic, etc.*

Students complete the sentence in number 6. Then they practise the dialogues in pairs, extending the conversations as they wish.

Key:

Exercise 1:

1. c
2. h
3. b
4. e
5. f
6. a
7. g
8. d

Exercise 2:

Can I help you?

Yes. I'd like to try on that red sweater in the window.

What size?

Medium, I think.

Here you are.

Thanks. Can I try it on?

Yes, of course.

Where are the changing rooms?

They're over there on the right.

Does it fit OK?

Well, it feels a bit small.

That's the style.

What about the colour?

The colour really suits you.

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TALKING SHOP

TEACHER'S NOTES

Do you think it goes with these jeans?

Oh, yeah. Red goes really well with blue.

How much is it?

€30

OK. I'll take it.

How would you like to pay?

I haven't got much cash on me. Can I pay by credit card?

Of course you can.

Exercise 3:

1. c (Tippex, white out)
2. f (a light bulb)
3. a (toothpaste)
4. b (an electric drill)
5. e (drawing pins, thumb tacks)
6. d (washing-up liquid, sponge or rubber gloves)

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EXERCISE 1: SHOPPING EXPRESSIONS

Match the shopping expressions (1–8) with the meanings (a–h).

- | | |
|---|---|
| ___ 1. Can I help you? | a. I want to know the price |
| ___ 2. Can I try it on? | b. I don't want to put it on in front of other customers. |
| ___ 3. Where are the changing rooms? | c. I know what we have in the shop. |
| ___ 4. Does it fit OK? | d. I want to know what ways I can pay. |
| ___ 5. Do you think it goes with these jeans? | e. I want to know if the size is correct. |
| ___ 6. How much is it? | f. I want to know if the combination of colours is OK. |
| ___ 7. It'll take it. | g. I want to buy it. |
| ___ 8. Can I pay by credit card? | h. I want to put it on to see if I like it. |

EXERCISE 2: A SHOPPING CONVERSATION

Put the questions from Exercise 1 into this dialogue. You decide where they go!

Customer: Yes. I'd like to try on the at red sweater in the window.

Shop assistant: What size?

Customer: Medium, I think.

Shop assistant: Here you are.

Customer: Thanks.

Shop assistant: Yes, of course.

Shop assistant: They're over there on the right.

[The customer goes to the changing rooms.]

Customer: Well, it feels a bit small.

Shop assistant: That's the style.

Customer: What about the colour?

Shop assistant: The colour really suits you.

Shop assistant: Oh, yeah. Red goes really well with blue.

Shop assistant: €30.

Shop assistant: How would you like to pay?

Customer: I haven't got much cash on me.

Shop assistant: Of course you can.

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WORKSHEET

EXERCISE 3: BUYING SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW THE NAME FOR

Match each shop dialogue 1–6 with one of the objects a–f. Complete the final sentence for the final object.

1. – Can I help you?
– Yes. I'd like a bottle of that white liquid you use for correcting mistakes when you're writing.
2. – Can I help you?
– Yes. I need one of those round things made of glass that go in lamps.
3. – Can I help you?
– Yes. I don't know what it's called, but it's that stuff you use for cleaning your teeth.
4. – Can I help you?
– Yes. I want to buy one of those electrical machines for making holes in walls.
5. – Can I help you?
– Yes. Have you got any of those things you use for putting posters on a cork board?
6. – Can I help you?
– Yes. I' _____.

a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.