

Shopping

Pre-intermediate

1 Match the words

Look at the shops in A, and the things you buy in B. Match the things you buy to the shops you can buy them in:

Example: baker's = bread, cakes

A

baker's	butcher's	greengrocer's	newsagent's
pet shop	florist's	off-licence	chemist's

B

bread	beef	vegetables	medicine
puppies	cigarettes	flowers	cakes
birthday cards	magazines	fruit	kittens
beer	newspapers	pork	perfume

2 Question time!

Use the words below to answer the questions:

a label	a receipt	a till	a shoplifter
a refund	a queue	a trolley	a bargain
a basket	a fitting room	change	a department store

- What do you call the place where you try on clothes before you buy them?
- When a supermarket is busy, what do you have to stand in when you are waiting to pay?
- When you buy something, what do you call the piece of paper that the shop assistant gives you? It shows the price.
- If you bring something back to a shop, the shop assistant may give you your money back. What is this called?
- What do you call someone who steals things from shops?
- What do you call the metal thing with four wheels that you put your shopping in when you are in a supermarket?

Shopping

Pre-intermediate

- g. If something costs £4.70, you will probably give the shop assistant a £5 note. What do you call the money he/she gives you back?
- h. What do you call a very big shop that sells almost everything?
- i. What do you call the piece of material that is attached to clothes, and tells you the name of the company that made it, where it is from, and how you wash it?
- j. What do you call the metal or plastic thing that you carry and put your shopping in when you are in a supermarket?
- k. When something is cheaper than usual, what do you call it?
- l. What do you call the machine that shop assistants use to put the money in?

3 Who is speaking?

Look at these phrases from a conversation between a shop assistant and a customer. Who says which phrase?

Example: *Can I help you?* = Shop assistant

Can I try it on?

It suits you.

It doesn't fit me.

It looks nice.

The changing rooms are over there.

How much is it?

I'm just looking, thanks.

Now imagine you are in a shoe shop. Write the conversation between the customer and the shop assistant. Use phrases like *yes*, *of course*, *yes*, *certainly* and *thank you very much*.

Shopping

Pre-intermediate

4 Questionnaire

Read and complete the questionnaire below:

Where do you usually buy clothes?

- a. high street stores b. department stores c. designer shops

How much do you usually spend on clothes in a month?

- a. less than 50 Euros b. more than 50 Euros c. It depends

What's important to you when you walk into a clothes shop?

- a. friendly shop assistants b. cheap prices
c. nice music d. the place looks nice

How often do you go to the supermarket?

- a. once a week b. once a month
c. more than once a week d. never

When you go to the supermarket, which of the following are always in your basket or trolley?

- a. chocolate b. beer c. coke
d. crisps e. meat f. oranges

Now ask your partner about his/her shopping behaviour.

Shopping

Pre-intermediate

Teacher's notes – Shopping Pre-Intermediate

At this level it is a good idea to find visuals to help teach these words. You could bring in pictures of different types of shops or the products they sell. Or, with a monolingual class from the same country, you could write the names of well-known shops on the board, and elicit the types of shops they are.

1 Read out the names of the shops to show the stress, then put the students in pairs to match the things you buy to the shops you can buy them in.

Answers:

baker's	= bread, cakes
butcher's	= beef, pork
greengrocer's	= vegetables, fruit
newsagent's	= magazines, newspapers, (but also usually cigarettes and birthday cards in the UK)
pet shop	= puppies, kittens
florist's	= flowers
off licence	= cigarettes, beer
chemist's	= medicine, perfume

2 Ask the students to work in pairs to answer the questions.

Answers:

a. a fitting room	b. a queue	c. a receipt	d. a refund
e. a shoplifter	f. a trolley	g. change	h. a department store
i. a label	j. a basket	k. a bargain	l. a till

3 Ask the students to work in pairs to decide who says which phrase.

Answers:

<i>Can I help you?</i>	= Shop assistant
<i>Can I try it on?</i>	= Customer
<i>It suits you.</i>	= Shop assistant
<i>It doesn't fit me.</i>	= Customer
<i>It looks nice.</i>	= Shop assistant
<i>The changing rooms are over there.</i>	= Shop assistant
<i>How much is it?</i>	= Customer
<i>I'm just looking, thanks.</i>	= Customer

Ask the students to work in pairs to write the conversation between the customer and the shop assistant. Point out that they need to change from *it* to *they* (because shoes are plural) and encourage them to use phrases like *yes, of course, yes, certainly* and *thank you very much*. When they are ready let some students read out their dialogues.

4 Give the students a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. Then put them in pairs to interview their partner about his/her shopping behaviour.