

Shop till you drop

Upper-intermediate

1 Match the words

Match the types of shops with the words and phrases that can be associated with them. For example, *volunteer staff* usually work in charity shops. Some words and phrases are appropriate for more than one type of shop:

department store	corner shop	chain store
car showroom	charity shop	furniture warehouse
shopping centre/mall	off-licence	supermarket

counter	store detectives	open all day	pop round to get some milk
second-hand clothes	second-hand shoes	food hall	aisle
part exchange	trolley	volunteer staff	£8000 on the road
raising money for good causes	designer clothes	a bottle of wine	"Toys are on the third floor, madam"
sale now on	till	one in every high street	promotion
brand names	Marks & Spencer	checkout	CCTV
everything must go	buy 2 get 1 free	great bargains	basket
escalator	a packet of cigarettes	customers must be over 18	two years warranty
muzak	give it a test run	lots of shops under one roof	shopkeeper

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2 Odd word out

Which word is the odd one out in each list?

a	shopkeeper	shop assistant	shoplifter	sales clerk
b	a basket	a till	a trolley	a carrier bag
c	warranty	guarantee	receipt	
d	a label	a price tag	a hanger	a security tag
e	£10 off	half price	a bargain	a refund

3 Jumble sale or car boot sale?

Do you know what a car boot sale is? Or a jumble sale? Have a guess. Read the texts and find out if you were right.

Basically, people drive to an open field in the middle of the country somewhere, park their cars in a row, open the car boots, and sell the things they have inside. It's great fun. I love browsing – just walking from car boot to car boot, looking at what's on sale. They are often very cheap, tacky things, but sometimes you get a great bargain. You can exchange something of your own for something from someone else's boot. And you can haggle down the price, which is something you can't usually do in British shops....

Often held in a church hall or local community centre to raise money for a local charity or school, a jumble sale involves lots of people bringing old clothes and second-hand household items, and selling them very cheaply. It's good fun to root through everything and find something you like. Jumble means a big pile of things in a mess. And that's basically what it is. A pile of old things on a table and two old ladies making tea for everybody.

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4 Shop speak

Look at these phrases – some of which are from the texts. What is the difference in meaning between them?

a	tacky	inexpensive	cheap
b	browse	root through	window shopping
c	exchange	haggle	barter
d	damaged	shop-soiled	second-hand

5 Write a description

Write a short description of a type of shop or way of shopping that is particular to your country. Where does it take place? What do people buy and sell and how do they do it?

6 Interview your partner

Interview your partner about shopping. Ask the questions below:

- Are you a shopaholic or someone who hates shopping?
- What do you like or hate about shopping?
- What sort of shops would somebody typically find you in on a Saturday morning?
- When shopping in a supermarket, are you a 'basket-person' – just buying a few things for the next day or so – or a 'trolley-person' – doing the weekly shop from a long shopping list.
- What things are always on your supermarket shopping list?
- Are there any unusual items on your list?
- What's the best shop you've ever been to?

Tell the class about your partner.

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7 Shopping dictionary quiz

Try the Quiz. If you have access to the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD-ROM you can find all the answers by finding the key word *shopping*, and following the various links:

- 1 What's a *shopping cart*?
- 2 What can you *shop around* for?
- 3 Do you *shop at* or *shop in* a supermarket?
- 4 What are the two meanings of *shut up shop*?
- 5 What's a *bucket shop*?
- 6 Is it a good idea to *talk shop* with your friends?
- 7 What can you buy in a *junk shop*?
- 8 What does a *shopwalker* do?
- 9 Where's the *shop front*?
- 10 What's the difference between a *shopping centre* and a *shopping precinct*?
- 11 Does a *shop steward* work in a shop?

Teacher's notes - Shop till you drop (Upper-Intermediate)

1 Start by brainstorming different types of shops with the students. Then put them in pairs to match the types of shops with the words and phrases that can be associated with them. The answers below are meant as a guide, many words and phrases fit in more than one category.

Answers:

corner shop	counter, shopkeeper, open all day, pop round to get some milk
charity shop	second-hand clothes, second-hand shoes, volunteer staff, raising money for good causes
car showroom	part exchange, give it a test run, two years warranty, £8,000 on the road
department store	food hall, designer clothes, escalator, "Toys are on the third floor, madam"
supermarket	aisle, till, checkout, promotion, trolley, basket
chain store	brand names, Marks & Spencer, one in every high street
furniture warehouse	everything must go, sale now on, great bargains, out of town
off-licence	a bottle of wine, a packet of cigarettes, customers must be over 18
shopping centre / mall	muzak, escalators, lots of shops under one roof, store detectives, CCTV

A note on the vocabulary:

pop round	= visit somewhere near very briefly
part exchange	= (here) a new car for your old car and some money
a test run or drive	= a drive to see if you want to buy it
£8,000 on the road	= £8,000 including tax, insurance, etc.
promotion	= usually a special stand selling a particular product
muzak	= quiet music played in shopping centres to make you relaxed so that you buy more
CCTV	= closed circuit television

2 Ask the students to work in pairs to decide which word is the odd one out in each list.

Answers:

a. a shoplifter	A shoplifter steals from shops. The others work in shops. A shopkeeper owns a shop. A shop assistant and sales clerk (US English) sell things.
b. a till	The others are used to carry supermarket products.
c. a receipt	The others mean the same.
d. a hanger	The others are connected to clothes.
e. a refund	The others refer to a reduction in price.

3 Ask the students to guess what a car boot sale or a jumble sale is. Then ask them to read the texts and find out if they were right.

4 Ask the students to look at the phrases and discuss the difference in meaning.

Answers:

a. tacky = poor quality	inexpensive = doesn't cost much money
cheap = doesn't cost much money.	
b. browse = walk through a shop looking at things, without buying.	
root through = pick things up and look at a pile of things to find what you want.	
window shopping = walking past shop windows in the city centre, looking at things, but not buying.	
c. exchange = change one thing for another	haggle = argue about the price.

barter = change one thing for another, but often used to describe a way of buying and selling products in a society which doesn't use money.
d. damaged = broken in some way
shop-soiled = in poor quality because it has been in a shop window or on a shop shelf for a long time.
second-hand = not new

- 5 Ask the students to write a short description of a type of shop or way of shopping that is particular to their country. This could be set for homework. In a multi-nationality class it is a good idea to pin the descriptions on the wall so that all the students can read them, then ask individuals questions about what they have written.
- 6 Ask the students to interview their partner about shopping. Then tell the class about their partner's shopping habits.

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Answers:

- 1 What's a *shopping cart*? A shopping trolley
- 2 What does *shopping around* mean? Go to several shops before deciding what thing you want to buy.
- 3 Do you *shop at* or *shop in* a supermarket? Shop in a supermarket.
- 4 What are the two meanings of *shut up shop*? To stop working at the end of the day. To close a business permanently.
- 5 What's a *bucket shop*? A cheap travel agent
- 6 Is it a good idea to *talk shop* with your friends? No. Talking shop means to talk about your work especially in a way that is boring for other people.
- 7 What can you buy in a *junk shop*? Second-hand furniture, books and pictures.
- 8 What does a *shopwalker* do? Someone in a large shop whose job is to help the customers and make sure the others are working hard.
- 9 Where's the *shop front*? The outside part of a shop that is on the street, where the main entrance is.
- 10 What's the difference between a *shopping centre* and a *shopping precinct*? Shopping centre: an area where a group of shops and businesses such as banks and restaurants are all built next to each other. Shopping precinct: an area in a town that contains many different shops and where cars cannot go.
- 11 Does a *shop steward* work in a shop? No. A shop steward is a worker who represents other workers in a particular union in a meeting with managers.