# 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>department store</th>
<th>corner shop</th>
<th>chain store</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>car showroom</td>
<td>charity shop</td>
<td>furniture warehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shopping centre/mall</td>
<td>off-licence</td>
<td>supermarket</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>shopkeeper</th>
<th>shop assistant</th>
<th>shoplifter</th>
<th>sales clerk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>a basket</td>
<td>a till</td>
<td>a trolley</td>
<td>a carrier bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>warranty</td>
<td>guarantee</td>
<td>receipt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>a label</td>
<td>a price tag</td>
<td>a hanger</td>
<td>a security tag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>£10 off</td>
<td>half price</td>
<td>a bargain</td>
<td>a refund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
**Shop till you drop**

Upper-intermediate

**4 Shop speak**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>tacky</th>
<th>inexpensive</th>
<th>cheap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>browse</td>
<td>root through</td>
<td>window shopping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>exchange</td>
<td>haggle</td>
<td>barter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>damaged</td>
<td>shop-soiled</td>
<td>second-hand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
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.

7 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.