

# Shop till you drop

Study the following text, paying special attention to the words and phrases in **bold** letters. You are more likely to remember words if you learn them in context and in the same lexical field.

The following people serve you in a typical shop: a **shop assistant**, **sales assistant**, **sales clerk**, **store clerk** or a **salesperson** – all of whom might stand behind the **counter**. Some shops only have **over-the-counter service** (I wonder what they would sell me **under the counter**?) However, stores usually have **self-service**. You simply push a **trolley** or a **shopping cart** around and choose the **goods** you want from the shelves. Some people are **just browsing**, i.e. just **looking**, not buying. You **pay at the cash desk** to the **cashier**, who then puts the money in the **cash register** or the **till**. A fine store has a wide **selection** or **range** of products. **Brand name products** may be expensive. You might want **to have the goods delivered** to your home. If not, remember to bring a **carrier bag** with you. Around Christmas you can usually find a **gift-wrapping counter** nearby. A **gift voucher** or a **gift certificate** makes a great present if you aren't sure what to get for your friend. Don't resort to **shoplifting**, though, because all **shoplifters** are **prosecuted** these days. **Store detectives** watch **customers** with the help of **closed-circuit TV cameras**.

Things **cost** money and they have a **price** that you **pay for** them. Sometimes they give you a **reduction**, e.g. yesterday's bread might be sold at **half-price**. The store could have **fixed prices**, although usually the **cash price** is lower than the **suggested** or **recommended retail price**. Just look at the **price tag**. The **bar code** includes all the necessary information and can be read by a machine. The prices might be **cheap**, **inexpensive**, **moderate**, **affordable**, **reasonable**, **expensive**, **outrageous** or even **exorbitant**. Sometimes you **end up paying through the nose**, which is also called **daylight robbery** (then you **know you've really been ripped off!**). Many stores have **special offers** or **bargains**, e.g. in the **bargain basement**. A real **bargain hunter** always **haggles** to get a **reduction** or a **discount**. If you're not **paying in cash**, you'll have to **negotiate the terms of payment**. A **cash purchase** gives you a **cash discount**. Some people buy thing **on credit** with their **credit cards**. Always keep the **receipt** for every **purchase**. You could also **make a down payment** on the product and **buy on hire purchase (HP)** or **by installments** (= you pay a little every month). If the product is not to your satisfaction, you can **complain about** it and **return** it to the store and hope for a **refund**. They might let you **exchange** it, unless it is **damaged**.

A **general store** sells many different kinds of things, a **corner shop** is, well, just around the corner. A **kiosk** has magazines, a **chain store** has **outlets** in many places. A **factory** might have a **retail outlet**. Shopkeepers usually buy their goods **wholesale**. There are many **shopping centres / centers** around as well as **(shopping) malls**. A **shopping arcade** gives you lots of small stores under one roof. You're not allowed to drive in a **shopping precinct**. **Supermarkets**, **grocery stores** or the **grocer's** have all the food you'll ever need. A **department store** usually has many **floors** with **escalators** taking you from **department** to **department**. A **discount store** or a **bargain store** has cheap stuff and a **second-hand store** or a **thrift shop** sells **pre-owned goods**. A **boutique** stocks fine, expensive or exclusive clothes and other items. Other kinds of stores include the **greengrocer's**, the **fruit store**, the **florist's** or the **flower shop**, the **butcher's** or the **meat shop**, a **delicatessen**, the **baker's** or a **bakery**, a **candy store**, the **fishmonger's** or the **fish market**, the **ironmonger's** or the **hardware store**, the **jeweller's** or the **goldsmith's**, the **optician's**, the **wine merchant's** or the **off-licence** or the **liquor store**, the **tobacconist's**, the **chemist's** or the **pharmacy** or the **drug store**, the **health food shop** and the **newsagent's** or the **newsstand**. **Off-peak shopping hours** mean shorter **queues** or **lines** because fewer people go shopping at those times.

Happy hunting!