



CONSUMERISM

USEFUL PHRASES

Shops and shopping

a shop / a store / a superstore /
a supermarket / a hypermarket /
a shopping mall, shopping centre / an
out-of-town shopping centre / the high
street / a department store / local shops /
a boutique / a street market / a flea market /
a farmers' market / a bricks-and-mortar shop,
store / an online shop, store / click-and-collect
(buy online, collect from a store or collection
point) / a factory outlet / a second-hand
shop / a charity shop / a thrift store / a dollar
store / a pound shop / a chain store / an
independent shop / an auction site / an online
marketplace / wholesale / retail

From entrance to exit

opening times / opening hours / a car park, parking lot / a sliding door / a revolving door / disabled access / a shopping trolley, cart / a shopping basket / an escalator / a lift, an elevator / a department / a section / an aisle / shelves / a sales assistant / a store manager / customer services / checkout / a till, cash register / self-checkout / a card reader / a receipt / a guarantee / home delivery / assistance / a complaint / a security alarm / a security guard / a bank machine, ATM, cashpoint, cash machine

Payment options

cash / notes, bills / coins / change / to break a large note / a bank card / a credit card / a debit card / contactless / tap-and-go (contactless payments using a card or phone, with no PIN) / to swipe [a card] / a deposit / to reserve / buy now, pay later / installments / interest rate / a prepaid card / a gift token, voucher / a discount voucher / cardless payment / a digital wallet / a refund, to refund / a discount code / cash on delivery (COD)

Ethics and dilemmas

cheap imports / buy local / Fair Trade / greenwashing (action taken by a company to make it seem environmentally active) / convenience / packaging / pre-packed / sweatshop labour / ethically sourced / shelf life / boycotts / accessibility / think global, buy local / a living wage / sustainability / transparency / mislabelling / a reusable shopping bag / a bag for life / carbon footprint / locally sourced / organic / cruelty-free

PAIR DISCUSSION

As part of an educational charity project, your school is preparing to welcome an unusual new student: a young person from a very poor village in a developing country. You and a friend have been asked to help him or her to learn how to use the shops in your area. Discuss what shops there are and what you might need to explain to your new classmate.

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

- Do you like shopping? Why or why not? How much time do you spend shopping?
- Do you prefer bricks-and-mortar shops or online shops? How about small local shops versus major stores? Why? What are their advantages and disadvantages?
- Do you pay attention to environmental and ethical concerns when buying things? What issues do you care most about and how do they affect your shopping behaviour?

PICTURE PROMPTS

Look at the pictures on the other side of the card. Choose one and describe it.

Now compare and contrast the two pictures. Talk about the people you see and the ways in which they are similar and different.

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