

● Do you like shopping? How much time do you spend shopping?

I love shopping. If I had more money, I would go shopping all the time. I go every week and help my parents at the supermarket / I take my Gran shopping / I love spending time at the shopping centre. I like shopping at the weekends with my friends and going into town. I hate / don't like shopping. It's boring / there are too many people / big queues (BrE) / long lines (AmE) / it's a waste of my time / I avoid shopping if I can / I go only a couple of times a year.

● What do you buy?

I buy clothes / make up / CDs / books / computer games / gadgets. I like browsing / walking around without buying anything / I go window shopping. When I have to go shopping, it's usually to buy clothes / try on clothes / get something for school / buy food or things for the house. I like shopping for presents for other people / Christmas shopping.

● Where do you go shopping and why?

I normally go to the town centre / to a big city like Prague / Brno / Ostrava because there is more choice. I prefer a large shopping centre because everything is under one roof / it's all in one place / I have more choice / it's cheaper. I always try to shop locally / go to smaller shops because they are friendlier / the goods are better quality / they sell products that you can't buy everywhere. I shop online / on the internet / get things from a catalogue so I don't have to go to the shops.

● What are the differences between a shopping centre, a department store and a high street?

A shopping centre (BrE) / mall (AmE) is a large covered area / building where you can find lots of shops (BrE) / stores (AmE) selling different things – for example, clothes, books, toys, shoes and sports equipment. A department store is one large shop with several floors / departments that sell different things – for example clothing on one floor, electronics on another floor. A high street (BrE) / main street (AmE) is a street with a lot of shops on it. You can walk along the street and visit the shops.

● What is the difference between a chain and an independent or local shop?

A chain of shops (BrE) / chain store (AmE) means many shops owned by the same company. They all have the same name and sell the same products – for example, Starbucks / Tesco / H&M. Independent shops are owned by individuals / are usually smaller.

They sell different / unique products that you can't buy in other places.

● What different types of shop can you find and what do they sell?

Grocery shops / stores sell food. Greengrocers sell fruits and vegetables. A bakery sells bread / cakes / rolls. A butcher sells different types of meat. A pet shop / store is a shop that sells everything you need for your pet, such as food, treats and toys. A shoe shop specialises in shoes and boots. A computer / electronics shop sells everything you need for your computer / printer / sells electronic equipment. A hardware shop / store like OBI / Bauhaus sells things for your house and garden. There are sweet shops, stationers (BrE) / stationery stores (AmE), tobacconists, clothing shops, chemists (BrE) / drugstores (AmE), bookshops, jewellers, toy stores, second-hand shops...

● Can you describe the different jobs you can find in shops?

The cashier is the person who works at the cash desk where you pay. A shop manager runs / manages the store. A sales assistant is someone who helps customers if they have a question. A shopkeeper is someone who owns a small independent shop. A merchandiser / buyer is someone who selects which products the store will buy / sell. Security guards are people who keep the shop safe / prevent people from stealing goods.

● Can you describe what 'sales' are?

A sale / discount is when goods are sold for a lower price than the original / when you can buy something for half price / get some money off the product. Big sales are usually on after Christmas / at the end of summer / when the shops are trying to sell leftover stock.

● Do you buy things on the internet? What do you think about internet shopping?

I always / sometimes shop online / have never used a computer for shopping. I think it's a good idea because you can buy lots of different things / it's easy / it's cheaper / you don't have to leave your home / if you want to buy something unusual, it's easier to find online. The downside is that you might get the wrong product / wrong size / the product may not come / the postage is expensive. Internet shopping is good for people who can't get to the shops / is bad because it means people are not shopping in traditional shops anymore and independent shops are closing.

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