

Ask Where is Something in a Store

On this topic, you will learn different words and phrases related to shops and shopping.

Check the following pictures and look at the descriptions and sentence examples below.



Places for shopping

There are many places we can go to when we want to do some shopping. Here is a list of some of the most common ones.

1. A **shop** (UK) or a **store** (US) is a place that sells things for people to buy. Many shops specialize in particular items, such as clothes, books, electrical goods, and other things.

- *There's a **store** opposite my office that sells shoes and bags.*

2. **Department stores** are large stores that are divided into many sections. They often have several floors and sell a variety of different things: clothes, sportswear, electronics, jewelry, perfumes, etc

- *I entered the **department store** and went up to the men's clothing section.*

3. **Supermarkets** are large stores where different foods and household items are sold. They offer a wide variety of products and different brands as well.

- *All the fruit and vegetables in the **supermarket** were very expensive.*

4. A **shopping centre** (a **mall** or **shopping mall** in US English) is a large building or area with many independent shops and restaurants inside it, usually with a big parking area.

- *There are 80 stores and 9 restaurants in the new **mall**.*

5. A **market** is an open place or building where different retailers sell their products. They can be indoors or outdoors, and some markets specialize in particular things, such as food, clothes, or flowers.

- *I buy my vegetables from the outdoor **market** in the town square.*

In a store

6. A **cashier** is a person you pay when you are buying something in a store, supermarket, department store, etc.

7. A **Customer** is a person who buys something in one of these places.

- *The **customer** paid the **cashier** for her tomatoes.*

8. A **cash register** is a machine that a cashier uses to calculate the cost of things. It is also where they put any money that is received from customers.

- *After I paid the cashier, he put the money in the **cash register**.*

9. A **sales assistant** is a person who helps customers in a store, so if you're looking for something or need advice, you ask the sales assistant.

- *Darling, can you ask the **sales assistant** if they have this in a smaller size?*

10. A **sale** is when a store or stores are selling items at a lower cost than usual, so when you buy something in a sale, you pay less money for it. The most popular sales are the summer sales, the winter sales and the Black Friday.

- *The shop was having a **sale**. Everything was 50% off.*

11. A **discount** is when the price of an item is lower than usual. You can buy something, for example, with a 20% discount.

- *There is a 25% **discount** on all books until the end of the month.*

12. The **price** is the amount that an item is selling for.

13. A **receipt** is a piece of paper that a customer receives from a cashier after they have paid for something, stating the amount that they paid.

- *The **price** of the items is always written on your **receipt**.*

14. **Refund**. If a customer is unhappy with something they have bought, they usually return it to the store to get the money back. This is called a **refund**. The expressions **ask for a refund** or **get a refund** are very common.

- *You will only get a **refund** if you show the cashier your receipt.*

15. To **purchase** something means to buy something.

16. To **try something on** is to put on an item of clothing to see if it is the right size for you. This is usually done in a small room with a curtain called a:

17. **Fitting room**.

- *Before I **purchased** the dress, I **tried it on** in the **fitting room**.*

18. Window shopping. Sometimes, you don't want to buy anything, but you want to do some window shopping. This means that you want to spend time looking at the products in the windows of stores without intending to buy anything.

- *Do you want to go to the shopping mall and do some **window shopping**?*

19. Pay by card or in cash. When you purchase something you can pay by card or in cash.

- *Sorry, you can't pay **in cash**. We only accept cards.*

20. Sold out. Sometimes, you cannot purchase an item because it's **sold out**. That means that people have bought all the stock of that item.

- *I wanted to buy that new toy, but it's already **sold out**.*

Useful language when you go shopping

There are certain phrases that we hear or use all the time when we are shopping, especially when we are shopping for clothes.

Things a store assistant or cashier would say

- *How can I help you?*
- *Are you paying in cash or by card?*
- *That will be 10 dollars, please.*
- *Here's your receipt.*

Things a customer would say

- *Do you have... in size...?*
- *May I try this on?*
- *I'll take this one.*
- *May I pay by card?*

Reference:

Test-English (2025). Shops and shopping. Retrieved from: <https://test-english.com/explanation/a2-vocabulary/shops-and-shopping-a2-english-vocabulary/>