

Unit 1

Getting started

- Do you like shopping?
- Where do you go shopping for food?
- Where do you go shopping for other things, e.g. clothes, shoes, furniture?
- Have you ever bought anything on-line?

Skills

- How do you compare prices?
- What weights and measures do you use? (e.g. cup of flour? Pint of milk? 250g of butter?)
- How do you convert these weights and measures?

The local area

- What are the good things and bad things about shopping in the local area?
- Where are the best places for bargains?

Around the UK

- What's cheap in the UK and what's expensive?
- Are there any UK shopping customs? Like what?

Around the world

- What's the best bargain you've ever had?
- What's shopping like in other parts of the world you know?

Staying safe

- Is it safe to shop on-line?
- How can we stay safe if we shop on-line?
- Have you experienced any scams? Or heard of any?

Shopping



Useful apps and websites

- Citizens Advice has education resources on consumer rights and avoiding scams: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/how-we-provide-advice/our-prevention-work/education/education-resources/education-resources1/
- You can also sign up for a weekly email from this site which has up-to-date tips: www.moneysavingexpert.com
- There are many phone "unit convertor" phone apps which are useful for converting weights, lengths, distances, etc.

Taking the topic further

- Go on a shopping trip together.

Social / Community

- Create a local shopping map.
- If you want to sell things in a market, how would you do it?

Our rights and responsibilities

- What do you do if you want to return something you've bought?
- Have you complained about poor service? What happened?

Personal view

- How do you feel about shopping?
- What's your favourite place to go shopping? Why?
- Have you ever taken something back? How did you feel? What happened?

Shopping

Unit 1

Introduction to the unit

This topic provides a lot of opportunities for participants to share local knowledge, tips and information which will be useful for people new to the area or managing on a very tight budget.



Session ideas at a glance

Welcome	If required, participants sign in or you record attendance on a register.
Opening chat/ circle time	Introductions for anyone new. General chatting. Anything to follow up or report back on from the previous session? Any news from anyone?
Getting started	<p>Remind/tell new participants the topic for this session: Shopping.</p> <p>Choose one or more warm up activities linked to the topic. See next page for ideas on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shopping memory game• Ranking prices <p>Ask some questions to get the conversation started and find out which aspects of the topic participants are most interested in talking about. (See mind map and next page for ideas).</p>
Conversations	<p>Plan to have 2 or 3 main conversations linked to this topic, possibly with supporting activities. See next page for ideas for four conversations and activities linked to shopping in 'The local area':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shopping bag• Shopping questions• 10 best places• Shopping for everyday things <p>If you have a large group and participants divide into small groups or pairs for each activity/conversation, finish each of these with the whole group reporting back and maybe discussing further together.</p>
Closing chat/ circle time	<p>Feedback about today's topic and conversations. Discuss any ideas for any follow up action or research for taking the topic further, e.g. visiting a local market, inviting a speaker from Citizens Advice to talk about consumer rights.</p> <p>Share ideas and agree the main topic for the next session. Any reminders or important dates/events coming up?</p>

Level of English: Beginners may want to practise using numbers and basic shopping vocabulary. Higher levels may enjoy the discussions and doing role plays on making complaints/ returning items, ideally based on some real experiences shared by the group.

Things to consider: People on very low incomes, and who rely on vouchers, foodbanks and charities, can share information about getting cheap or free food, second-hand clothes, shoes or furniture from local places such as foodbanks, charity shops, refugee support projects and Sunday markets.

Selling things may be of interest for participants who previously had shops or stalls, and for those interested in doing this in the UK. See local council websites for information on getting a stall/licence. If participants want more speaking practice with numbers and money, see **Unit 12 Money**.

Getting started: Warm up activity - Shopping memory game

- Play 'I went to the market ...' (See *English conversation practice toolkit*, Section 1c).
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Getting started: Warm up activity - Ranking prices

Resources and preparation: Slips of paper with prices written on them for the game.

- Ask everyone to stand up. Give each participant a slip of paper with a price written on it.
- Explain participants can look at the price but must not show it to anyone else. They need to stand in a row from the lowest price up to the highest price by telling each other their price.
- When everyone is in the row, ask participants to call out their prices, starting with the lowest. If anyone is in the wrong place, they should move.

N.B. Prices can be simple (e.g. £1) or more complex (e.g. £28.45) depending on the level of the group.

The local area: Shopping bag

Resources and preparation: A bag of 10 - 15 common food items from the local supermarket/market stall (or empty containers). Make a note of the prices you paid.

- Take items from the shopping bag one at a time. In pairs or small groups, participants discuss what the item is and how much they think you paid for it. Groups call out their price and those who are nearest get a point. Encourage plenty of discussion on how much prices can differ depending where you shop, and good places locally for specific items and where to get a bargain.
 - **Kim's game** Cover all the shopping items and see what everyone can remember. (See *English conversation practice toolkit*, Section 1b).
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The local area: Shopping questions

Resources and preparation: Print or write the shopping prompt questions - one set for each group.

- Divide participants into small groups. Give each group a set of question prompt cards to put face down on the table. Explain that participants should take it in turns to pick up a card and make a question to ask someone else, e.g. *How much do you pay for halal chicken? Where can you buy cheap trainers?* Demonstrate with one participant if they are not sure what to do.
 - Encourage participants to talk about where they shop for these different items, e.g. which supermarkets, markets or other shops, and where they are.
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The local area: 10 best places

- As a whole group, participants discuss, agree and rank the 10 best places to shop in the area.
 - Use a local map or participants can draw a very simple local map on a flipchart sheet. Everyone can help point out where the good places are for any new arrivals to the area.
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The local area: Shopping for everyday things

Resources and preparation: Images of different items of clothing, footwear, and everyday items such as saucepans, phones etc. or bring in real examples.

- Put the images and/or items on the table. Encourage participants to ask each other shopping questions, e.g. *Where did you get your ...? Where do you buy clothes/shoes? Where can you get cheap saucepans?* Encourage participants to tell each other where they get these items. If appropriate, make sure participants know about local places (or websites) to get free clothing and other everyday items.
- As a whole group, participants can decide on the 5 best places to get everyday items in the area. They can use a local map or add to their flip chart food map.
- If useful, they can role play shopping situations and asking questions, e.g. *How much are these trainers? Have you got this in large/small/green etc.? Can I return this?*



Image: Unsplash.com

What ...?

Where ...?

How much ...?

Have you got ...?

.....

What ...?

Where ...?

How much ...?

Have you got ...?