



## Episode 3: Retail Shopping

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations. For more information about ways to use this podcast, download notes for [students](#) or [teachers](#).

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss retail shopping habits, likes and dislikes, etc.

Here are a few words and phrases about retail shopping that you may find useful:

<b>try on</b>	put on an item of clothing to see if it fits and looks nice
<b>fitting room</b>	private room in a store where you can try on clothing
<b>window shopping</b>	looking at items that are for sale just to enjoy looking with no intent to buy (doesn't necessarily have to be just looking in the window)
<b>"No thanks, I'm just browsing"</b>	something you can say to a store clerk if they ask if you need help or are looking for something in particular
<b>retail therapy</b>	going shopping to make yourself feel happier, especially if you are sad or in a bad mood
<b>shopaholic</b>	a compulsive shopper, particularly if the shopping habit is unhealthy or otherwise causes a disruption in the person's life
<b>bargain hunter</b>	a person who looks for bargains (sales and good deals) when shopping
<b>buyer's remorse</b>	a feeling of regret after making a purchase because it was too expensive or it turned out not to be a good product, etc.
<b>BOGO</b>	acronym for "buy one get one" meaning when you buy one item, you get another or similar item for free
<b>brick and mortar store</b>	a business that operates from a physical building or storefront location; used as a way to clarify that it is not an online store
<b>aisle</b>	a walkway between sections in a store, theater, plane, church, etc. <i>Pronunciation note:</i> the S is silent, and it sounds the same as "Ill"
<b>shoplifting</b>	a specific type of theft that occurs when someone steals a product from a retail store

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

<b>count on</b> [something]	to hope or expect that something will happen or that someone will do something You come in the store to buy one specific thing, but then you end up buying several items. That's what they [retail stores] <u>count on</u> .
<b>overwhelming</b>	describing a situation where there is an excessive amount of something (information, stimuli, etc.) making it difficult to process everything and react Looking at so many choices is <u>overwhelming</u> .
<b>I can't take it</b>	I can't endure or suffer some situation <u>I can't take it</u> – I have to get out of this store.
<b>go back and forth</b>	repeatedly move in one direction and then the opposite direction. (e.g. go back and forth down the aisles) but also used figuratively (e.g. going back and forth between two ideas trying to make a decision)
<b>What did</b> [someone do something] <b>for?</b>	a way to ask <i>why</i> someone did something, especially when you think the behavior was bad, strange, annoying, etc. <u>What did</u> you ask me <u>for</u> ? (expresses annoyance because he asked my opinion and then did the opposite of what I said)
<b>distinguish</b>	to recognize a difference between two different things The term is used to <u>distinguish</u> between an online store and a physical store.
<b>knickknacks</b>	a small object used for decoration It takes a long time to dust the shelves because they're filled with <u>knickknacks</u> .
<b>all over the place</b>	in a disorganized or confused state; not consistent Women's clothing sizes can be <u>all over the place</u> .
<b>it drives me nuts</b>	it is very annoying or irritating (also: it drives me crazy)
<b>hem (noun)</b>	the edge of a piece of cloth that is folded down and sewn
<b>hem (verb)</b>	to sew a hem, especially as needed to shorten the length of pants, etc.
<b>take back</b>	Phrasal verb: to return an item, either for exchange or refund This shirt is too big, so I'm going to <u>take it back</u> .
<b>astronomical amount</b>	used to emphasize that something (usually cost) is very large They reported an <u>astronomical amount</u> in returns – something like 80 million dollars of merchandise.
<b>go ahead</b>	used in conversation when two people start to speak at the same time – one person says this to allow the other person to continue speaking.
<b>off the rack</b>	describing ready-made, not custom-made clothing (e.g. clothes you find in a store on the rack)
<b>take [one's] measurements</b>	measure someone for a piece of clothing, usually to be custom made They <u>took</u> his <u>measurements</u> for a custom suit.
<b>take in / let out</b>	Phrasal verb: describing clothing alterations: <u>take in</u> clothing that is too big; <u>let out</u> clothing that is too tight. (e.g. take the shirt in; let the pants out)

## Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

<b>it's on you</b>	you are responsible for the consequences; it's no one else's fault
<b>goodwill</b>	the value that a company's good reputation adds to its overall value It may cost more to replace the suit, but the <u>goodwill</u> it creates is worth it.
<b>get/jump on the bandwagon</b>	become involved in a cause, movement, or activity after it has become popular During Covid, I <u>got on the</u> online shopping <u>bandwagon</u> .
<b>feel down</b>	feel sad or depressed
<b>law-abiding citizens</b>	people who never break the law
<b>cheer up</b>	phrasal verb: to make someone feel happier It can <u>cheer you up</u> if you're <u>feeling</u> a little bit <u>down</u> .
<b>hangnail</b>	a small piece of partly detached skin at the side or base of the fingernail.
<b>sure enough</b>	used to introduce a statement that confirms something previously predicted Thinking the mattress might be on sale for Memorial Day the following week, I decided to wait until then, and <u>sure enough</u> , they had a Memorial Day sale.
<b>tame down</b>	change from a wild, chaotic state to a more controlled and restrained state The Black Friday sales have <u>tamed down</u> a bit in recent years.
<b>trample</b>	to cause damage or pain by stepping heavily on something or someone
<b>stampede</b>	movement of a large group animals or people together in a wild and uncontrolled way I didn't want to get <u>trampled</u> by the <u>stampede</u> .
<b>jack up the price</b>	disapproving: increase prices to an unreasonable or unacceptable level Stores <u>jack up</u> the prices and then put a discount on the item.
<b>gadget</b>	a small useful device (e.g. kitchen or electronic gadgets)

## Phrasal Verbs in Context

Phrasal verbs are often used when talking about shopping, such as in the following short passage.

I needed to buy some things for my vacation, so I went to the mall to go shopping. I **picked out** a few shirts and some shorts and then went to look for a travel bag. One seemed perfect, but it was a bit expensive. I normally like to **shop around**, but I decided to buy it then because there were only a few left in stock, and I didn't want it to **sell out**. I also **picked up** some flip flops that were on sale.

**pick out:** select

**shop around:** comparison shop to get the best price for something

**sell out:** the entire supply of an item is sold

**pick up:** buy something (casually, quickly, or without planning to do it)

## Grammar: Noun Clauses with WH Words

In the conversation, Donielle says: **“I don't know what the deal is with that.”**

This expresses wonder and confusion about why something is happening, or why it is done this particular way. People often use this expression rhetorically: **“What is the deal with that?”**

Notice the word order in both the examples above. The second one is a question, so it follows typical WH question word order. However, in the first example, the WH word is not indicating a question. It is used to introduce a noun clause acting as an object of the verb **know**. Because the WH clause is not a question, it uses standard SVO word order. This structure will happen any time a sentence begins with: I [don't] know, I [don't] remember, I [don't] understand, I'm not sure, I wonder, etc.

## Join the Conversation

- Do you like to go shopping? What types of things do you enjoy shopping for? What types of things do you not enjoy shopping for?
- When you go shopping, do you have any favorite stores that you usually go to? What are some things that you think are better to buy in a brick and mortar store, rather than online?
- Are you a bargain hunter? When you want to buy something, do you shop around, or do you just buy it? Do you ever use coupons, discount apps, or other ways to save money?
- Have you ever had buyer's remorse? Did you ever regret your purchase because you spent a lot of money, or it wasn't worth the money, etc.?
- How is the shopping experience in the U.S. (or U.K., etc.) different than the country where you were raised?
- What cities do you think are the best for shopping? What types of things do you shop for when you travel abroad?

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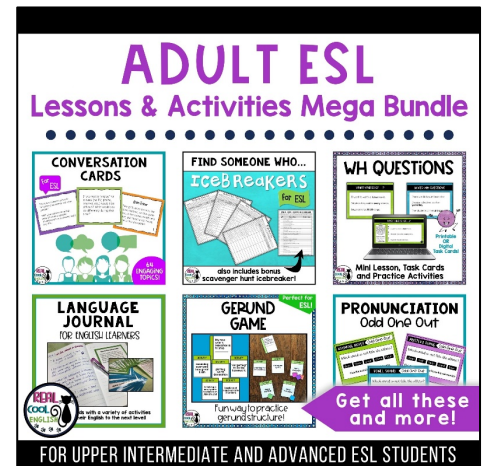
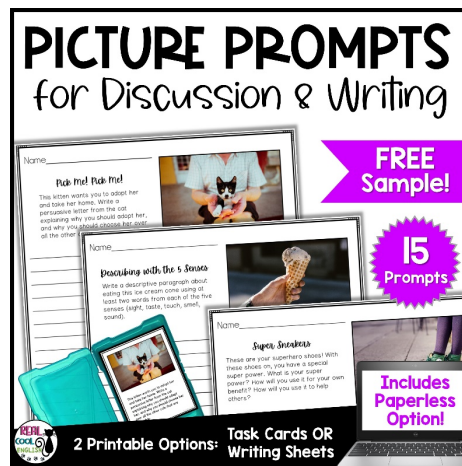
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