

B1.3 Shopping and Money

You can learn:

- How to talk about financial matters.
- How to complain politely.
- How to talk about hypothetical situations.

1



Discuss the questions in the box, which are all related to the topic of shopping and money, with your partner.

- Do you enjoy shopping? Where, why and what for?
- Do you ever buy things 'second-hand'? (used things)
- Do you usually save up for things, or buy on credit?
- Do you ever gamble? Have you ever been to a casino?
- Is there a national lottery in your country?
- Have you ever given money to a homeless person?
- Do you ever give money to charity?
- Do you spend a lot of money on buying other people presents? If so, when, and what things do you buy?
- Do women enjoy shopping more than men?
- What do you spend the most on every month?
- Are there problems in your country's economy?
- If so, who is to blame for the recession?
- If you won a lot of money what would you buy?

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Role-play: "It's Just not Good Enough!"

Imagine that one of you is the customer in the following situations. Express your dissatisfaction with the poor level of service you have received. Your partner will be the hairdresser/manager/pet shop owner/ language school manager/tailor and will try to resolve the situation.

Situation One

You are at the hairdresser's. You wanted to change the colour of your hair. But it has gone orange instead of blond. Also, your head hurts because the dye has been left on for too long. You do not intend to pay any money and feel like crying!

Situation Two

You are in a fish and chip shop, but the chips are cold and the fish is greasy. You have been waiting for half an hour and the waitress has been rude. Not only that, but you ordered tea, which was cold and weak when it arrived. You demand to speak to the manager...

Situation Three

You bought some material at a pet shop to make a bed for your pet hamster. But the material went into your hamster's eye and you needed to go to a vet and pay for him to remove it. The animal is O.K. now, but you want the shop to stop selling the dangerous bedding material and refund the vet's bill.

Situation Four

You are at a private language school. You have paid for a month's classes, but feel that you have been placed in the wrong level. As a result, you do not understand the lessons, or the other students. Also, you do not like the teacher as he speaks too quietly and smells of alcohol all the time.

Situation Five

You recently bought a smart jacket in a department store. You liked it, but they did not have your exact size. So you bought one that was too big and took it to a tailor to alter. However, the tailor has now made it too small! You cannot get it to fit at all. You want the tailor to pay for a new jacket, and it was expensive!

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3  Look at the pictures below and on the next page, together with your partner, think about them in three different ways:

a.) First, imagine that each one is an advertisement. What product could it be advertising? What would the *advertising slogan* be?

b.) Next, imagine that each one is a photograph on the front page of a newspaper. What story could it go with? What would the *newspaper headline* be?

c.) Finally, imagine that each one is the picture on the cover of a book. What would the book be about? What would its *title* be?

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4  **Now write down the five advertising slogans that you thought of, or the first paragraph of the book, or a paragraph of the newspaper story, imagined the way you and your partner saw it in the last activity.**

It was a normal Monday morning, or so Robert thought until his face started to swell into a strange shape...

