LET’S TALK ABOUT SHOPPING

Going shopping is a part of our everyday life. For some people it’s a pleasant pastime while for others it’s just a daily routine. Some people love doing the shopping and they are happy if they can pick up a bargain in the sales. But whether you like shopping or not you have to do it because it’s a necessity.

There are many kinds of shops in every town or city, but most of them have a food supermarket, a department store, men’s and women’s clothing stores, a grocery, a bakery and a butchery.

I like to do my shopping at big supermarkets because you can buy a lot of goods more cheaply there than at small local shops. There are several department stores under one roof at all supermarkets. In Britain they often belong to different firms which run them individually. Prices vary from department to department. They sell a wide assortment of confectionery and bakery, wines, fruits and vegetables, smoked meat and sausage, dairy products, butcher’s meat, a lot of jewellery, electrical appliances, perfumery, household goods, sport goods and foot wear, knitted and leather goods, textiles, stationary.

In the supermarkets most of the goods are sold ready-weighed, ready-packed and wrapped. You can find wide selection of everything here from shoe polish to eggs. In the women’s clothing department, for example, you can buy dresses, costumes, blouses, skirts, coats, beautiful underwear.

Customers go round the supermarket with a basket or trolley getting the food from the shelves. Having filled your basket you go to the cash desk, where there is a short queue. When there is your turn the prices of your purchases are added up. You pay money to the cashier and she gives you back the change.

In our city we have a great number of shops. We can also do the shopping at the market where the prices are usually more reasonable. My father does most of the shopping in our family. He usually drives to the supermarket where he goes to the grocery, greengrocery, meat and fish departments and buys all the food we need for our family. He usually does it once a week. Shopping is just a chore for my father while for me and my mother going shopping is a kind of pastime and even entertainment. We can spend hours walking from one shop to another in search of something special.

A few days ago my friend and I went on a shopping round. We started with a small shop, which offered fashion able clothes in a half-price sale. I liked a lovely summer dress we saw there but was disappointed when I learned that they didn’t have my size. We moved on to another shop that had “A Huge Sale” sign on the door. After making our way through the crowd, each of us picked out some clothes and waited in the line for the fitting rooms. We tried on the selected items but didn’t buy anything as it turned out that the clothes either didn’t fit us or the sale prices were too high for us. In the end we didn’t buy much but we enjoyed ourselves all the same and are now looking forward to another shopping round.

Like most boys I hate shopping and the idea of going to a supermarket or a big department store drives me mad. But we need clothes and we need food. Much as I dislike shopping I have to do it from time to time.

In our family shopping is basically my mother’s responsibility and she doesn’t mind it. She knows what to buy and where you can buy something at a lower price. I live in a small town, and there aren’t many shops here, to say nothing of supermarkets. Most of the shops are located in the centre of the town and there is a two-storeyed department store in the cen­tral square. The market opposite the department store is very popular with the local people as the prices there are considerably lower than in the shops.

I seldom go shopping, but I know where this or that thing can be bought. When we run out of some foodstuffs and my mother is too busy to do the whopping I go to the nearest food store where I can buy everything we need: bread, milk, sugar, eggs, butter and other foodstuffs. As the shop is just round the corner it doesn’t take me much time to do it.

I seldom go to the big department store where they have a lot of departments under one roof. They sell stationery, millinery, footwear, sportswear goods, perfumery, jewellery, ready-made women’s and men’s clothes. All the things for sale are on the counters and in the shop windows so it’s convenient for the customers to choose what they want.

As I have said I am not keen on shopping but from time to time my mother takes me to a department store when we need to buy some clothes or shoes for me. I don’t mind going to shops where they sell books and CDs. I can stay for hours there leafing through pages of some historical books or going through piles of CDs. But shopping for food and clothes is really boring and tiresome.

QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of shops do you know?
2. How often do you go shopping?
3. Is shopping in your opinion a pleasant or a boring and tiresome thing?
4. Do you like to do shopping in big stores or in small shops?
5. Where do you usually buy vegetables and fruits?