

Activity Type

Listening and speaking activity, pair work

Focus

Shopping

Aim

To practice language for buying and selling items in a newsagent's and a clothes shop.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each pair of students and cut as indicated.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In these engaging shopping role-plays, students practice shopping language in two situations. The first role-play takes place in a newsagent's and the other takes place in a clothes shop.

Procedure

Draw two columns on the board. Label one column 'Shop assistant' and the other column 'Customer'.

Elicit language that a shop assistant or customer might use in a newsagent's and clothes shop and write it in the appropriate column.

Examples:

Shop Assistant	Customer
Can I help you?	Do you have...?
Yes, here you are.	I would (also) like...
Sorry, we've only got...	I'll take it/them.
That's \$....	How much is that?

Next, divide the students into pairs. One student takes on the role of a newsagent shop assistant and the other is a customer. Give the newsagent's card to the shop assistant and the shopping list to the customer.

Tell the shop assistants that the information on their card shows the items they have for sale and the cost of each item. Explain that if they don't have what the customer wants, they should try to sell them something else.

Tell the customers that their shopping list shows details of the preferred items they want to buy and their total budget. Explain that some shopping items may be too expensive to buy or the shop assistant may not have what they want. If that's the case, the customers should buy a similar or cheaper item.

The pairs then begin the role-play. When the students have finished, they move on to the second role-play, which focuses on clothes shopping. Have the students swap roles so the shop assistant now becomes the customer and the customer becomes the shop assistant.

Give each student a corresponding role card. The roles are the same as above, but this time the customer has a \$200 gift voucher, which they can't go over budget on.

When the students have finished, have them present their role-plays to the class and give feedback.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

Shopping Role-Plays

Role-play 1 - Newsagent's			Role-play 2 - Clothes shop		
The Daily News	\$1		Versace shirt (S, M, L, XL)	\$85	
The Herald	\$1.25		Burberry shirt (M, L, XL)	\$70	
Coke/Sprite/Fanta	\$1.10		Diesel T-shirt (S, M, L)	\$35	
Bottled water	\$0.50		Adidas T-shirt (S, M, L)	\$45	
Potato chips	\$1.25		Nike trainers (36, 38, 42)	\$70	
Chocolate bars	\$1		Vans trainers (40, 41, 42)	\$80	
Total =			Total =		
If you don't have what your customer wants, try to sell them something else.			If you don't have what your customer wants, try to sell them something else.		



Role-play 1 - Shopping list		Role-play 2 - Shopping list	
Budget	\$2.50	Gift voucher	\$200
A newspaper, preferably 'The Post'		Shirt (L), preferably 'Versace'	
A drink but nothing fizzy.		T-shirt (L), preferably 'Adidas'	
A snack, preferably potato chips		Trainers (41), preferably 'Nike'	
If an item is too expensive to buy or the shop assistant doesn't have what you want, buy something cheaper or similar.		If an item is too expensive to buy or the shop assistant doesn't have what you want, buy something cheaper or similar.	