

IELTS Vocabulary Topics

Shopping Word List

Word/phrase	Meaning	Example
Online shopping	To buy items on the internet.	Online shopping is incredibly popular today because it's convenient.
Shopping channel	A TV channel that promotes products for sale.	There are a lot of good bargains on the shopping channel.
Brand	A registered trademark.	Top quality brands are always the most expensive.
Discount	A reduced price on an item.	We got a 20% discount because we registered early.
Shopping center (UK) mall (US)	A building where many stores are located.	Teenagers like to hang out at the mall at the weekend.
Chain of stores/shops	A company with stores/shops in different locations.	The company's plan was to open a chain in every high street.
Franchise	A business with a commercial license.	When you buy a franchise, the company provides all the training and equipment.
Department store	A large store that sells a variety of items.	The best place to get all those different items is in the department store.
Guarantee	A promise.	We got a full refund for the TV because it had a 2-year guarantee.
Changing room/fitting room	A small room for trying on clothes before buying them.	She took 5 dresses into the changing room because she couldn't decide.
Flea market	A market that sells second hand (used) items and antiques.	We love to wander around the flea market at the weekend in search of antiques.
Receipt	Proof pay payment.	If you want or need a refund, you must have the original receipt.
Cash register (US) Till (UK)	A device that records purchases.	Today some cash registers don't accept cash payments.
Carrier bag	A bag (usually plastic) for carrying shopping.	Nowadays most stores charge for plastic bags.
Market research	Information about the things that people buy.	Our market research shows that our new brand is most popular with teenagers.
Sample	An example of a product.	Can I get a sample of the perfume before I buy it?
Wholesaler	A company or person who sells products to stores for resale.	Products bought at the wholesaler are cheaper than the store price.
Shopaholic	Someone who is addicted to shopping.	She's a real shopaholic. She spends all her free time shopping online.
Cashier	The person who operates the cash register (till)	The cashier forgot to give me the receipt, so I had to go back to the shop.

Affordable	Having enough to buy something.	It's affordable for us to go abroad for our holidays this year.
Appliance	A piece of equipment or device.	The best place to buy kitchen appliances is at the city mall.
Auction	A sale where the highest offer (bid) buys the item.	Paintings and antiques are usually sold at auction.
Opening hours	The times when a store is open.	According to the opening hours, this store is closed on Sundays.
Second hand (UK) Used (US)	Items which were previously owned.	Buying a used car is always risk. You don't know if it's reliable.
Budget	The amount of money available to spend.	When we go shopping, we a strict budget and never spend more than we agreed.
Browse	To look at different items in a shop before buying.	Before buying the cooker, lets browse in different stores and compare prices.
Debt	To owe money.	He got into debt last month because he overspent on a new car.
Bargain	A good deal.	I got a really good bargain on this used car. I paid a lot less than I expected.
Consumer	Someone who buys goods.	A Consumer survey show that people prefer to shop in malls.
Refund	To get the money back.	I got a full refund on the watch because the seller sent the wrong item.

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Shopping Idioms

Window shopping

Meaning: Looking in shop windows without buying anything

Example: When I was a student, I didn't have much money and would spend my time *window shopping* at the weekend.

Cost an arm and a leg

Meaning: Something you think is very expensive.

Example: The new electric car *costs an arm and a leg* but it's worth it because the emissions are less harmful to the environment.

Shop till you drop

Meaning: Shopping until you are exhausted.

Example: Every year we have a day out in London and *shop till we drop*.

Retail therapy

Meaning: The idea that shopping makes you feel better.

Example: After a stressful week at work, he likes to do some *retail therapy* and shop for expensive items that he doesn't really need.

Talk shop

Meaning: To talk about work or one's job.

Example: I don't really like to hang out with my colleague Bob. All he does is *talk shop*, usually criticizing our boss.

Shoplifting

Example: To steal from shops while pretending to be a customer.

Meaning: She was convicted of shoplifting and it's estimated she stole over \$1000 worth of goods.

Shop around

Meaning: To visit different stores and compare the prices.

Example: If you're looking for a new mobile, it's best to *shop around*. The prices vary a great deal in each shop.

It's a steal

Meaning: When an item is so cheap you feel you almost got it for free.

Example: At that price *it's a steal*. You won't find it any cheaper in another shop. Buy it now!

Mom and pop shop

Meaning: Locally owned family stores.

Example: When my parents retired, they opened a *mom and pop store* selling groceries.

All over the shop

Meaning: Confused and disorganized.

Example: The department restructure is *all over the shop*. Nobody is clear what their new roles will be.

Bargain hunting

Meaning: Going from place to place looking for items at the lowest price.

Example: During the sales, my wife and I like to go *bargain hunting*. We visit as many shops as we can.