

LESSON 5 SHOPPING FOR FOOD

INTRODUCTORY READING AND TALK

Buying **foodstuffs** in a modern supermarket can be considered a sort of art. It is the art of combating a temptation.

Supermarkets play a dirty trick on the **customers**: practically every **shopper is tempted to buy** things he or she does not need or cannot **afford**.

The mechanism of this lamentable deceit is simple. Firstly, supermarkets **are laid out** to make a person pass as many **shelves** and **counters** as possible. Only the hardest of souls can pass loaded racks indifferently and not **collect all sorts of food** from them.

Secondly, more and more supermarkets supply customers with **trolleys** instead of **wire baskets**: their bigger volume needs more **purchases**. One **picks up** a small **item**, say, a pack of spaghetti, puts it into a huge trolley and is immediately ashamed of its loneliness. He or she starts adding more.

Thirdly, all products are nicely **displayed on the racks** and all of them look fresh in their **transparent wrappings** with **marked prices**. A normal person cannot ignore **attractively packed goods**. And so one cannot but feel an impulse to buy. And, finally, supermarkets don't forget about those who **look for bargains**. The so-called "**bargain bins**" filled with **special offers** wait for their victims. No one can tell for sure if the prices are really **reduced**, but it is so nice to boast later that you **have a very good eye for a bargain**.

So when a simple-hearted customer approaches a **check-out**, his or her trolley is **piled high**. Looking at a **cashier, running her pen over barcodes**, he or she starts getting nervous while the **cash register is adding up the prices**. And, getting a **receipt**, he or she gives a sigh of relief if the **indicated sum** does not exceed the **cash he or she has**.

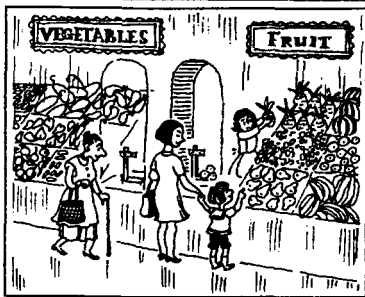
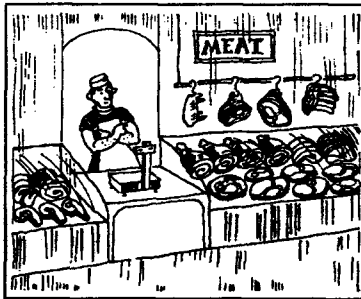
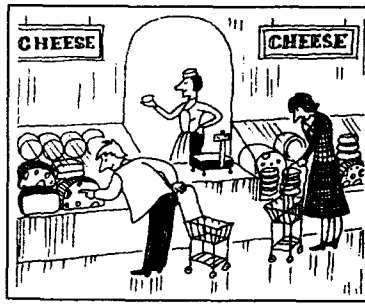
Of course, one can give a piece of advice to the simple-hearted: **compile a shopping list** and buy only **pre-planned goods**. But is it worth losing that great sensation of buying? One can really wonder.

A lot of people prefer to **do their shopping** in small **shops**. The daily shopping route of some housewives includes visits to the **baker's, butcher's, grocer's, greengrocer's, fishmonger's and a dairy shop**. In the end of the route their bags are full of **loaves of bread, meat cuts, packs with cereals, fruit, vegetables, fish and dairy products**. Only very strong women can **call in at the tobacconist's** after all that.

The explanation for this housewives' craze is very simple. In every shop their **buys are weighed, wrapped up, their money taken** and the **change given back**. Meanwhile they can have a chat with **salesgirls** and **shop-assistants** about their weak hearts and broken hopes.

So, friends, **go shopping** as often as you can. Because the simple truth is: a visit to a good shop is worth two visits to a good doctor.

1. Fancy that you take a little child to a supermarket for the first time. Explain to him what you see around and what one should do.



2. Describe a) the supermarket closest to your block of flats;
b) your favourite supermarket.
3. Say how you buy goods in an ordinary shop and in a supermarket.
4. Say what one can buy in the shops mentioned in the text (baker's, butcher's, etc.)

○ TEXT

Shopping for One

(A story by Anne Cassidy. Abridged)

Supermarkets are much the same the world over — especially the queues at check-out points. What extraordinary things other people are buying! There are odd snatches of overheard conversation too. But what if one is living alone, 'Shopping for one'?

'So what did you say?' Jean heard the blonde woman in front of her talking to her friend.

'Well,' the darker woman began, 'I said I'm not having that woman there. I don't see why I should. I mean I'm not being old-fashioned but I don't see why I should have to put up with her at family occasions.¹ After all...'

Jean noticed the other woman giving an accompaniment of nods and headshaking at the appropriate parts.² They fell into silence and the queue moved forward a couple of steps.

Jean felt her patience beginning to itch.³ Looking into her wire basket she counted ten items. That meant she couldn't go through the quick till⁴ but simply had to wait behind

elephantine shopping loads; giant bottles of coke crammed in beside twenty-pound bags of potatoes and 'special offer' drums of bleach. Somewhere at the bottom, Jean thought, there was always a plastic carton of eggs or a see-through tray of tomatoes which fell casualty to the rest.⁵ There was nothing else for it — she'd just have to wait.

'After all,' the dark woman resumed her conversation, 'how would it look if she was there when I turned up?'⁶ Her friend shook her head slowly from side to side and ended with a quick nod.

Should she have got such a small size salad cream? Jean wasn't sure. She was sick of throwing away half-used bottles of stuff.

'He came back to you after all,' the blonde woman suddenly said. Jean looked up quickly and immediately felt her cheeks flush. She bent over and began to rearrange the items in her shopping basket.

'On his hands and knees,' the dark woman spoke in a triumphant voice. 'Begged me take him back.'

She gritted her teeth together. Should she go and change it for a larger size? Jean looked behind and saw that she was hemmed in by three large trollies. She'd lose her place in the queue. There was something so pitiful about buying small sizes of everything. It was as though everyone knew.

'You can always tell a person by their shopping,'⁷ was one of her mother's favourite maxims. She looked into her shopping basket: individual fruit pies, small salad cream, yoghurt, tomatoes, cat food and a chicken quarter.

The cashier suddenly said, 'Make it out to J. Sainsbury PLC.' She was addressing a man who had been poised and waiting to write out a cheque for a few moments. His wife was loading what looked like a gross offish fingers⁸ into a cardboard box marked "Whiskas". It was called a division of labour.

Jean looked again at her basket and began to feel the familiar feeling of regret that visited her from time to time. Hemmed in between family-size cartons of cornflakes and giant packets of washing-powder, her individual yoghurt seemed to say it all.⁹ She looked up towards a plastic bookstand which stood beside the till. A slim glossy hardback caught her eye. The words *Cooking for One* screamed out from the front cover. Think of all the oriental foods you can get into,¹⁰ her friend had said. He was so traditional after all. Nodding in agreement with her thoughts Jean found herself eye to eye with the blonde woman, who gave her a blank, hard look and handed her what looked like a black plastic ruler with the words "Next customer please" printed on it in bold letters. She turned back to her friend. Jean put the ruler down on the conveyor belt.¹¹

She thought about their shopping trips, before, when they were together. All that rushing round, he pushing the trolley dejectedly, she firing questions at him. Salmon? Toilet rolls? Coffee? Peas? She remembered he only liked the processed kind.¹² It was all such a performance. Standing there holding her wire basket, embarrassed by its very emptiness, was like something out of a soap opera.

'Of course, we've had our ups and downs,'¹³ the dark woman continued, lazily passing a few items down to her friend.

Jean began to load her food on to the conveyor belt. She picked up the cookery book and felt the frustrations of indecision. It was only ninety pence but it seemed to define everything, to pinpoint her aloneness, to prescribe an empty future. She put it back in its place.

'So that's why I couldn't have her there you see,' the dark woman was summing up. The friends exchanged knowing expressions and the blonde woman got her purse out of a neat leather bag. She peeled off three ten pound notes and handed them to the cashier.

Jean opened her carrier bag ready for her shopping. She turned to watch the two women as they walked off, the blonde pushing the trolley and the other seemingly carrying on with her story.

The cashier was looking expectantly at her and Jean realized that she had totalled up. It was four pounds and eighty-seven pence. She had the right money, it just meant sorting her change out. She had an inclination that the people behind her were becoming impatient. She noticed their stack of items all lined and waiting, it seemed, for starters orders.¹⁴ Brown bread and peppers, olive oil and, in the centre, a packet of beefburgers.

She gave over her money and picked up her carrier bag. She felt a sense of relief to be away from the mass of people. She felt out of place.¹⁵

Walking out of the door she wondered what she might have for tea. Possibly chicken, she thought, with salad. Walking towards her car she thought that she should have bought the cookery book after all. She suddenly felt much better in the fresh air. She'd buy it next week. And in future she'd buy a large salad cream. After all, what if people came round unexpectedly?

Comprehension Check

1. Whom did Jean hear talking in the queue?
2. Why was Jean's patience beginning to itch?
3. Why couldn't Jean go through the quick till?
4. When did Jean begin to rearrange the items in her shopping basket?
5. Was Jean the last in the queue or not?
6. What did Jean see in her own shopping basket?
7. Whom did the cashier suddenly address?
8. What caught Jean's eye suddenly? Why?
9. What did Jean remember about the shopping trips with her friend?
10. Why did Jean put the book back in its place?
11. How much did the blonde woman pay?
12. Did Jean see the two women leave the shop or not?
13. How much did Jean pay?
14. Why did Jean think that people behind her were becoming impatient?
15. What did Jean feel after she had left the supermarket?
16. What did Jean think about while she was going towards her car?
17. What did she suddenly decide?

EXERCISES

Exercise 1

I. Find in the text words or phrases similar in meaning to the following.

A cash desk, a purchase, coca-cola, a plastic bag, big size cartons, to calculate, goods, a heap, half-empty.

II. Give your own words or expressions similar in meaning to the ones from the text.

To pinpoint, to fire questions, to rearrange, to give a blank look, to catch one's eye, a snatch of conversation, to flush, to grit one's teeth together, to beg.

Exercise 2

Below see the list of the words from the text. Think of words opposite in meaning to them.

extraordinary	oriental
appropriate	traditional
triumphant	empty
familiar	to push
individual	indecision
impatient	to buy

Exercise 3

The author herself uses synonymous words and expressions in the text. Say how otherwise the author puts the following.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| to count — | to continue — |
| to give over money — | small salad cream— |
| elephantine — | write out a check — |
| wire basket — | cram in — |

Exercise 4

When postpositions are added to verbs, the meanings of the latter can utterly change. Choose the right one from the two given in brackets. Explain the difference in meanings.

1. (put; put up)
 - a) The dark woman ... all the stuff into her carrier bag.
 - b) Jean thought that she had to ... with a loss of time.
2. (turn; turn up)
 - a) Jean ... her head and saw a queue behind her.
 - b) Jean remembered the time when he suddenly ... and they went on their shopping trips.
3. (pick; pick up)
 - a) The customers ... goods from the racks while walking along the aisles.
 - b) Last summer there were a lot of blueberries in the forest. We often went there to ... them.
4. (make; make out)
 - a) The gentleman at the till asked the cashier to ... a bill for him.
 - b) Jean thought that she would ... a salad in the evening, probably with chicken.
5. (write; write out)
 - a) When Jean and he were together they sometimes ... letters to each other.
 - b) He always paid in cash and never ... cheques.
6. (carry; carry on)
 - a) A lot of women never ... heavy bags, as they think it to be not ladylike.
 - b) The people in the queue were interested in the end of the story and she ... with it.
7. (pass; pass down)
 - a) The woman at the till... the cardboard box to her husband and they both left.
 - b) Jean ... the rack with family-size cartons of cornflakes indifferently.
8. (come; come round)
 - a) Parting with her friend Jean tried to seem careless and said casually, '... some time'.
 - b) '...to see me', the blonde woman said to her friend.
9. (cram; cram in)
 - a) Though the box was already full the woman managed to ... the last pack offish fingers among the rest.
 - b) The supermarket was ... with customers on that day.
10. (walk, walk off)
 - a) Jean never ... to the supermarket as the way was far too long; she went there by car.
 - b) Slowly Jean ... from the supermarket deep in her thoughts.

Exercise 5

I. Pick out from the text the terms used to denote:

- a) objects we use to put our purchases in,
- b) amounts or quantities of some stuff,
- c) certain details of the interior in a supermarket,
- d) names of foodstuffs and drinks.

II. Make up a list of products which Jean saw

- a) in her own wire basket,
- b) in other people's baskets or trollies.

III. Find and read aloud sentences saying

- a) what Jean thought of herself and her purchases,

b) what Jean thought of other people and their purchases.

Exercise 6

Find in the text sentences containing the words given below. Consult the dictionary to pick out all their meanings. Illustrate these meanings with your own examples.

wire stuff cover belt beg
item quarter bold roll change

Exercise 7

Complete the statements by choosing the answer which you think fits best.

1. Mother never buys goods displayed on the racks with the notice "... offer".
A. specific B. special C. particular
2. The customers are asked to load their purchases on to the conveyor
A. strap B. line C. belt
3. It is a lot more convenient to push a ... than to carry a wire basket in a supermarket.
A. trolley B. roller C. van
4. While shopping my brother always tries to go through a ... till, as he hates queues.
A. swift B. fast C. quick
5. Housewives prefer to buy ... packets of stuff, as it is a little bit cheaper.
A. gross-size B. family-size C. block-size
6. Sometimes the queues at... points are so long that the idea of leaving the supermarket without buying anything may look attractive.
A. check-out B. check-in C. check-up
7. Customers are not allowed to put things in their own bags in supermarkets; they are supposed to use
A. iron baskets B. shop baskets C. wire baskets
8. A lot of people prefer to ... a cheque than to pay in cash.
A. write out B. write in C. write up
9. Salesgirls usually put all goods bought in a supermarket into ... for the customers' convenience.
A. trade bags B. carrier bags C. supermarket bags
10. 'Here's your ... from a ten-pound note', said the cashier giving me three pounds.
A. exchange B. change C. bill

Exercise 8

Work in pairs. Discuss with your partner some interesting shopping experience. Use at least five expressions from the list below.

To fall into silence, to be sure, to be sick of throwing away something, to feel one's cheeks flush, on one's hands and knees, to grit one's teeth together, to look behind, a favourite maxim, from time to time, to scream out from the front cover, foods one can get into, after all, eye to eye, to give a blank look, to hand somebody something, bold letters, to fire questions, a soap opera, ups and downs, to sum up, to carry on with the story, to have the right money, a sense of relief, to be away from, to feel out of place, to feel better in the fresh air, to come round unexpectedly, to torn up, to catch one's eye.

Exercise 9

Fill in the gaps with the prepositions from the list: *into, through, of, together, for, by, beside, in, on to*.

1. The girl thought that glass bottles of milk would be too heavy to carry and changed them ... plastic packets.
2. One can tell a good customer ... the way he or she chooses goods.
3. The lady screamed and all people in the hall immediately fell ... silence.
4. The guard from the security service helped the lady to go out of the shop and she felt better ... the fresh air.
5. Anyone can get sick... the long queues at check-out points.
6. The customers are asked to put the stuff..... the conveyor belt.

7. If one has got not more than three items, he or she can go ... a quick till.
8. When the queue is too long one can do nothing but grit his or her teeth ... and wait dutifully.
9. The most annoying thing about shopping is standing ... the till and watching how slowly people pay.

Exercise 10

Express the same idea using different wording and grammar.

1. Jean noticed the other woman giving an accompaniment of nods and headshaking at the appropriate parts.
2. Jean felt her patience beginning to itch.
3. There was nothing else for it — she'd just have to wait.
4. She was sick of throwing away half-used bottles.
5. Jean looked behind and saw that she was hemmed in by three large trollies.
6. She was addressing a man who had been poised and waiting to write out a cheque for a few moments.
7. Jean looked again at her basket and began to feel the familiar feeling of regret that visited her from time to time.
8. Nodding in agreement with her thoughts Jean found herself eye to eye with the blonde woman.
9. She picked up the cookery book and felt the frustration of indecision.
10. She peeled off three ten pound notes and handed them to the cashier.
11. She had the right money, it just meant sorting her change out.
12. She had an inclination that the people behind her were becoming impatient.
13. She noticed their stack of items all lined and waiting, it seemed, for starters orders.
14. She felt a sense of relief to be away from the mass of people.

Exercise 11

Find the bit starting with the following words and explain why Jean was feeling that way

'Jean looked up quickly and ...'

'She gritted her teeth together ...'

'Jean looked again at her basket and began to feel ...'

'It was all such a performance.'

'She suddenly felt much better in the fresh air.'

Exercise 12

Speak about Jean's visit to the supermarket:

1. in the third person;
2. in the person of Jean herself;
3. in the person of the blonde woman;
4. in the person of the cashier.

Exercise 13

Discussion points.

1. What can you say about Jean as a person? Try to derive information from the minor details of her behaviour.
2. Was parting with her friend a shocking experience for Jean or not?
3. What can you say about the two women?
4. Do you agree that one can always tell a person by their shopping?
5. Why does the story end with a question? What does it mean?

Exercise 14

I. Imagine that your mother gives you a shopping list, which you see below. Think in what shops you can buy these things and put the names of items in the graphs of the chart.

a loaf of brown bread

1 kg of pork

1 large cod

a bottle of vinegar

1 kg of pork

2 medium-sized herrings

3 lemons	a tin of sardines in oil
0.3 kg of ham	2 kg of potatoes
1 small cabbage	a large chicken
a tin of condensed milk	biscuits
a bunch of radishes	a bag of flour
a drum of margarine	a 0.5 kg pack of sour cream
0.5 kg of cheese	0.2 kg of butter

dairy shop	butcher's	baker's	fishmonger's	grocer's	greengrocer's

Exercise 15

I. Look through the list of products and say which of them are sold in Russia:

- 1) by the kilo,
- 2) by quantity,
- 3) by tens.

Fish, carrots, kiwi, meat, eggs, pineapples, sausages, rye bread, oranges.

II. Look through the list of products and say which of them are sold in Great Britain:

- 1) by lbs*
- 2) by quantity
- 3) by dozens.

* lb — abbreviation from the Latin word "libra" — «фунт», in speech it is pronounced "pound". E.g. 3 lbs — three pounds.

Cheese, lemons, grapes, white bread, ham, mangoes, eggs, potatoes, chickens.

III. Say which products from the list below are priced:

- 1) per kilo,
- 2) per each.

Onions, tomatoes, wheat bread, tinned meat, cabbages, mangoes, buns, chops, apples, cucumbers.

Exercise 16

Exclude from the lists below products which cannot be sold as preprepared, frozen, dried, tinned.

pre-prepared	frozen	dried	tinned
garlics	cherries	bananas fish	flour
steaks	onions turkey	meat	pork peaches lettuce
fish fillet potatoes tomatoes	bread	ham	tuna
	spaghetti	plums	

Exercise 17

I. Say what and how much you should buy if you are going to make:

- 1) Russian beet and cabbage soup — borsch;
- 2) Salad which they call in Russia "Olivier salad";
- 3) An apple pie.

► **Pattern:** *If I am going to make ... I will buy ...*

II. Say what and how much you buy to cook your favourite dish.

III. Guess what a housewife was going to cook if her shopping list included:

1. 2 lbs beef; 1 lb pork; white bread; eggs; 1/2 lb onions, 1 bottle milk.

2. 2 lbs wheat flour; 1/2 doz eggs; 2 bottles milk; 1 pack yeast;

1/2 lb sugar.

3. 1/2 lb rice; 1 lb smoked fish; 1 lb onions; 1/2 doz eggs; 1 jar mayonnaise.

4. 4 lbs lamb; 2 lbs tomatoes; 2 lbs onions; 1 bottle dry white wine; 1 pack pepper.

5. 2 lbs pork; 1 bag potatoes; 1 lb carrots; 1 head cabbage; 1/2 lbs onions; 1 bunch celery; 1 bunch parsley; 1 pack laurel leaves.

► **Pattern:** *The housewife was going to cook ... if she bought....*

Exercise 18

Standing in a queue at the check-out is a boring business. Some people invent games to make the time pass quicker. One of them comes to guessing what people's lifestyles are likely to be judging by the contents of their shopping baskets.

I. Read the following passages and try to say something about people's families, homes, lifestyles.

Body language can tell a stranger a lot about one's personality, so can the fruits of one's shopping expedition.

Yesterday I observed a beautiful young lady. While her little daughter begged unsuccessfully for a bun, she was carefully choosing a shampoo, hair conditioner and bath perfume. Then she picked up a couple of cinema magazines and went to the check-out.

I looked down into her trolley and shuddered: three gallons of milk, 3 loaves of bread, four chickens, a mountain of baby-food jars, cakes and pies.

I especially like to observe male shoppers. I don't mean househusbands dutifully checking items off a list. I prefer a gourmet who knows the real taste of things: imported cheeses, exotic spices, a whole leg of lamb, early asparagus.

I felt hostility flowing from the woman standing behind me in the supermarket check-out queue. Had I cut in front of her? She was glaring into my basket. I quickly surveyed my selections to see what could be generating such hostility. Let's see: two bottles of champagne, a lovely avocado, a pound of shrimp, and a quart of purified water.

II. Fancy what one can see in a shopping basket of:

- 1) a good housewife;
- 2) a divorced man;
- 3) a woman on a diet;
- 4) a hearty eater;
- 5) someone expecting guests.

III. Think of other games you can play in your head to make the time pass when you are waiting in a queue.

Exercise 19

I. Read and translate the following dialogues. Reproduce them.

○ **Dialogue 1**

At the Grocery store

Grocer: Hello, Ann, how are you doing today?

Ann: Fine, thanks. How are you?

Grocer: I am okay, thank you. What can I get for you, Ann?

Ann: I'd like half a pound of butter, a pound jar of strawberry jam, a large bottle of vinegar and a tin of sardines.

Grocer: Will that be all?

Ann: No, I'd also like a small-sized packet of mushroom soup and a piece of smoked bacon. Grocer Will this do? It's all we have at the moment, I'm afraid.

Ann: No, it's much too fat. I wanted it leaner. I think I'd better take some ham instead. How much is it?

Grocer: Eighty pence a pound.

Ann: Good. Half a pound, please. That'll be all. How much does it come to?

Grocer: Five pounds thirty seven pence, please.

Ann: Right. Here is six pounds.

Grocer: And here is your change.

Ann: Thanks.

Grocer: Good-bye, Ann. Thank you. Come tomorrow, we'll have a new stock.

○ **Dialogue 2**

At the Butcher's

Shop assistant: Can I help you, madam?

Mrs. Gilbert: I'd like a leg of lamb. Do you sell it?

Shop assistant: Yes, we do, but I'm afraid we've sold out at the moment. If you'd care to call in tomorrow.

Mrs. Gilbert: Thank you, I won't bother! I'll buy some pork instead.

Shop assistant: Oh, yes. We've got excellent choice today. What part would you like to get — shoulder, leg or some other?

Mrs. Gilbert: This bit of shoulder is fine with me.

Shop assistant: Okay. It weighs four pounds.

Mrs. Gilbert: I'll also have a chicken.

Shop assistant: Boiling or frying?

Mrs. Gilbert: Boiling, please.

Shop assistant: Will this do?

Mrs. Gilbert: Nice. That will be all. How much is it?

Shop assistant: Three pounds twenty pence.

Mrs. Gilbert: Here you are.

Shop assistant: Your change, madam. Thank you. Have a nice day.

○ **Dialogue 3**

At the Greengrocer's

Greengrocer: Good morning, Mrs. Daisy. How are you this morning?

Mrs. Daisy: Fine, thanks. And how are you?

Greengrocer: I'm having a little trouble. Some of my supplies aren't here yet. So I don't have tomatoes and peppers.

Mrs. Daisy: Oh, that's a shame. Will you have some later?

Greengrocer: Oh, yes, they will be delivered in the afternoon. I'll save them for you.

Mrs. Daisy: Thanks. It's very kind of you. And now I'll take a bag of potatoes, a couple of beets and some carrots.

Greengrocer: All right. Notice the fruit we've got today. The peaches are very good.

Mrs. Daisy: The peaches do look good. What do they cost? Greengrocer: Peaches are quite cheap this time of the year. Thirty pence a pound.

Mrs. Daisy: That's a real bargain. I'll take three pounds.

Greengrocer: Okay. Now, what else?

Mrs. Daisy: Well, that's all for today. How much do I owe you?

Greengrocer: That's four pounds seventy five pence. Here's your change from your five pound note — twenty five pence.

Mrs. Daisy: Thank you. Good-bye.

Greengrocer: Good-bye, Mrs. Daisy. Thanks a lot.

II. Pick out from the three dialogues sentences, which denote the shop assistants'

a) greeting their customers,

b) offering goods,

c) telling the price of goods.

III. Pick out from the three dialogues sentences, which denote the customer's

a) greeting shop assistants,

b) telling what they need,

c) asking about the price.

IV. Make up your own dialogues and enact them in class.

Exercise 20

Work in groups. Each group should make up a list of products which people usually buy at the age of ten, fifteen, thirty, fifty, seventy. Compare your lists and discuss them agreeing, adding details or criticizing.

► Use:

I completely agree that..

I'm not sure that...

There is no doubt that...

I really doubt that...

I also have the idea that

I utterly disagree that

Who would argue that...

I don't think that...

Exercise 21

Discuss the following points in class.

1. What is preferable for you — to buy food in a big supermarket or in small shops? Why?

2. Where are the best shops for food in your city or town?

3. Speak about foodstuffs sold in your shops. Say whether they are shipped in or grown locally; say which are expensive and inexpensive; say what foodstuffs which you might have seen in the shops abroad are not sold in this country.

4. Do they sell foodstuffs under the counter nowadays? What kind of goods can those be?

5. Do you pay attention to the brand name when you buy food? If not, how do you make your choice?

6. What is your personal style of shopping for food? Do you buy at once or do you take your time to look around for lower prices?

7. How often do you buy very expensive foodstuffs? What kind of products are those? When does it happen?

Exercise 29

Translate the following quotations into Russian and comment upon them.

'The public buys its opinions as it buys its meat, or takes in its milk, on the principle that it is cheaper to do this than keep a cow. So it is, but the milk is more likely to be watered.'

Samuel Butler

'Creditors have better memories than debtors.'

Benjamin Franklin

'Necessity never made a good bargain.'

Benjamin Franklin

'England is a nation of shopkeepers.'

Napoleon I

'If a continental greengrocer asks 14 schillings (or crowns, or francs..., or whatever you like) for a bunch of radishes, and his customer offers 2, and finally they strike a bargain agreeing on 6 schillings, francs, roubles, etc., this is just the low continental habit of bargaining.'

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