

Shopping in London



READING

15 ES Read the text and answer the questions.

GOING OUT SHOPPING

England was once, in the words of Napoleon, “a nation of shopkeepers”. Today, England is “a nation of compulsive shoppers”. English people love shopping and they can’t do without it.

London’s shopping is legendary with its 40,000 shops and 26 street markets.

Covent Garden is a “must” visit for all tourists to London. Once a fruit and vegetable market, it is now a pedestrian complex of shops and small boutiques, trendy cafés and restaurants. Young people meet there and enjoy street jugglers, acrobats and magicians, whose performances take place every day and are free to the public.

Oxford Street is London’s busiest shopping street; if you like clothes and shoes, it’s the place for you! The best place for electronics shops is Tottenham Court Road. Charing Cross Road is where book-lovers go. There you can find Foyles, famous for its five floors containing thousands of titles.

A department store sells a very wide range of goods; it is like a collection of shops under one roof. Harrods is the department store that every tourist wants to visit in London. Tourists have to be prepared to spend a long time in Harrods as it contains over 300 departments which sell everything, from the cheapest to the most expensive things. Hamley’s is where every child’s dream comes true. It offers seven floors of toys for all ages, from traditional soldiers and dolls to high-tech computer games and robots.

Camden Markets have become one of London’s top attractions. People can find all kinds of things. At the weekends the markets are crowded with people who walk and meet other people, or sit in a café.

These are only some of the places where people can shop in London and when tourists ask “What or where shall we buy...?”, they can pick and choose.



▲ Harrods



▲ Camden Markets



▲ Oxford Street



▲ Covent Garden

1. Why are English shoppers compulsive?
2. What was Covent Garden in the past?
3. How often can you see the street performances in Covent Garden?
4. If you need a notebook or a new Mp3 player, where should you go in order to have a wide range of goods?
5. What’s a department store?
6. How long does it take to visit Harrods?
7. Who are the main customers of Hamley’s?
8. Why are Camden Markets so popular with tourists?

shopkeepers = negozianti
 compulsive = sfrenati
 trendy = alla moda / di tendenza
 jugglers = giocolieri
 book-lovers = appassionati di libri
 crowded = affollati



LISTENING

16 ^{1.37} Lucy is in a shop, looking for a present. Listen to the conversation with the shop assistant and answer the questions.

1. Who is the present for?
2. Why does Lucy have to buy a present?
3. Does Lucy know what to buy?
4. What does the shop assistant show her first?
5. Give two reasons why Lucy doesn't buy it.
6. Does Lucy's brother use shaving products?
7. Why does Lucy think that her brother will never wear the shirts the shop assistant sells?
8. What does she finally choose and why?
9. What colour does she choose?
10. How much does it cost?



SPOKEN INTERACTION

17a With a classmate practise a part of the dialogue between Lucy and the shop assistant. Follow the guidelines.

- Shop assistant** Say good morning to Lucy and offer your help.
- Lucy** Say you are looking for something for your brother.
- Shop assistant** Ask if it is for a special occasion.
- Lucy** Say you would like to buy your brother something special because he's going to be 18.
- Shop assistant** Ask what Lucy has in mind.
- Lucy** Say you are looking for something personal and original.
- Shop assistant** Suggest a strange crazy cap. Say that teenagers go mad about these kinds of cap.
- Lucy** Ask how much it costs.
- Shop assistant** Answer £ 30.
- Lucy** Say that you'll have a violet one.

17b Now have similar dialogues with a classmate. Substitute the person who the present is for, the occasion, the present, the colour and the price.



WRITING

18 Write a short paragraph about shopping in your town or in a big city near where you live. Give the following information:

- Where is the best place to go shopping?
- Is it very crowded?
- Why is it popular?
- What can you buy?
- Are there local small shops?
- What do they sell?
- Are there many supermarkets or department stores?
- What time do the shops open and close?
- When is the best time for shopping?
- Do people prefer shopping in small shops or in big shopping centres?