

# Shopping

# 1. Asking for Help in a Store

## Getting a Store Employee's Attention

When you need assistance in a store, start with a polite **"Excuse me."** This is the most common way to get an employee's attention in American English. A friendly smile also helps create a positive interaction. 😊

Many store employees may approach you first and ask questions such as:

- "Can I help you find something?"
- "Are you finding everything okay?"
- "What can I help you with today?"

If you need assistance, try these useful phrases:

- "Excuse me, could you help me, please?"
- "I'm looking for something."
- "Hi, can I ask you a question?"
- "Could you point me in the right direction?"

Remember to use **please** and **thank you** whenever possible. Small words can make conversations much more pleasant.

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## Explaining What You're Looking For

The easiest way to explain what you need is to start with:

### "I'm looking for..."

For example:

- "I'm looking for a birthday present." 🎁
- "I'm looking for a pair of running shoes."
- "I'm looking for a phone charger."
- "I'm looking for a backpack."

If you don't know the exact English word, don't worry. Describe the item instead:

- "It's something you use to..."
- "It's used for..."
- "It's a thing that helps you..."

For example:

### "It's something you use to charge a cell phone."

Store employees can often identify the product from your description and may even teach you the correct vocabulary.

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## Finding Products in the Store

Large stores can be confusing, especially if you're unfamiliar with the layout. These questions can help:

- "Where can I find the notebooks?"
- "Which aisle has the pasta?" 🍝
- "Where are the school supplies?"
- "Do you have a section for children's clothing?"
- "Where can I find electronics?"

If the directions are unclear, ask a follow-up question:

- "Could you show me where that is?"
  - "Is it near the front of the store?"
  - "Is it on this floor?"
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## Asking About Products

After you find an item, you may want additional information before deciding to buy it.

Useful questions include:

- "Does this come in other colors?"
- "Do you have a larger size?"
- "Is this currently on sale?"
- "Can I take a closer look at this?"
- "What's the difference between these two?"

If you're unsure which product to choose, ask for advice:

- "Which one would you recommend?"
- "What's your most popular option?"
- "Which one sells the most?"

Store employees often know which products customers prefer and can help you make a decision.

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## When the Item Isn't Available

Sometimes the item you want is unavailable. In these situations, try asking:

- "Will you be getting more soon?"
- "Do you have this at another location?"
- "Can I order it online?"
- "When will it be back in stock?"

You can also ask about alternatives:

- "Do you have something similar?"
- "Is there another option you would recommend?"
- "What do most customers buy instead?"

These questions help keep the conversation productive and increase your chances of finding what you need.

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## When You Don't Understand

It's completely normal to ask for clarification.

Useful phrases include:

- "Sorry, could you say that again?"
- "Could you repeat that, please?"
- "Could you speak a little slower?"
- "I didn't catch that."
- "What does that mean?"

Most people are happy to repeat or explain information when asked politely.

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## Ending the Conversation

When the interaction is finished, thank the employee for their assistance.

Common expressions include:

- "Thank you for your help!" 🙏
- "That's exactly what I needed."
- "I appreciate it."
- "Perfect, thank you."
- "I'll take this one. Thanks!"

A friendly attitude and a sincere thank-you can make every shopping experience more enjoyable and help you feel more confident using English in real situations.

## 2. Asking About Prices and Discounts

### Finding Out the Price 💰

One of the most common questions in any store is about price. Even when a price tag is visible, you may still want to confirm the cost before making a purchase.

For a single item, ask:

- "How much is this?"
- "What's the price of this?"
- "How much does this cost?"

For more than one item, use:

- "How much are these?"
- "How much do these cost?"

These simple questions work in almost any shopping situation.

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### When You Can't Find a Price Tag

Sometimes products are missing price labels, or the price isn't easy to find.

In these situations, you can ask:

- "I can't find the price on this."
- "Could you tell me how much this is?"
- "Is there a price for this item?"
- "Can you check the price for me?"

Employees can usually scan the item or look it up in the store's system.

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### Asking If Something Is On Sale 🏷️

Many shoppers like to look for deals and discounts.

Useful questions include:

- "Is this on sale?"
- "Is there a discount on this?"

- "Is this item marked down?"
- "Do you have any promotions right now?"
- "Are there any special offers available?"

Sometimes stores display signs, but it's still perfectly normal to ask an employee for clarification.

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## Understanding Sale Vocabulary

You'll often see these words while shopping:

- **Sale** — a temporary reduction in price
- **Discount** — money taken off the regular price
- **Clearance** — products being sold at a reduced price to make room for new inventory
- **Special Offer** — a limited-time deal
- **Buy One, Get One Free (BOGO)** — receive an additional item at no cost

Learning these terms will help you understand store advertisements and promotions more easily.

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## Asking About Better Prices

If an item seems expensive, you can politely ask about other options.

Try these questions:

- "Do you have anything less expensive?"
- "Do you have a cheaper option?"
- "Is there a more affordable version?"
- "What would you recommend at a lower price?"

Employees can often suggest similar products that fit your budget.

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## Confirming the Final Price

Before paying, it's helpful to know exactly how much you'll spend.

Useful questions include:

- "What's the total?"

- "How much will it be after tax?"
- "Is tax included in the price?"
- "What's my final total?"

In the United States, sales tax is usually added at checkout, so the amount you pay may be slightly higher than the price displayed on the shelf.

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## Understanding Common Responses

Store employees may answer with phrases such as:

- "It's \$24.99."
- "It's currently 20% off."
- "That item is on clearance."
- "The sale ends this weekend."
- "The discount will be applied at checkout."

Listening for these expressions will help you understand pricing information more confidently.

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## Comparing Prices

When choosing between products, you may want to compare costs.

Useful questions include:

- "Which one is the better value?"
- "What's the difference between these two?"
- "Why is this one more expensive?"
- "Is the higher-priced one better quality?"

These questions can help you make smarter purchasing decisions.

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## Saving Money While Shopping

A little communication can sometimes save you money.

Don't be afraid to ask:

- "Are there any coupons available?"
- "Do you have a loyalty program?"
- "Can I sign up for store rewards?"
- "Are there any discounts for members?"

Many stores offer savings programs that aren't always advertised clearly.

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## Building Confidence

Asking about prices and discounts is a normal part of shopping. Store employees answer these questions every day, so don't feel uncomfortable asking.

The more you practice these expressions, the easier it becomes to compare products, understand promotions, and make confident buying decisions in English.

# 3. Asking About Sizes and Colors

## Finding the Right Size

When shopping for clothing, one of the most common questions is whether an item is available in your size.

Useful questions include:

- "Do you have this in a size 10?"
- "Do you have this in a medium?"
- "Do you have a larger size?"
- "Do you have a smaller size?"
- "What sizes do you have available?"

Store employees hear these questions every day, so don't hesitate to ask.

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## Common Clothing Sizes

In American stores, clothing sizes may be listed using letters or numbers.

Common letter sizes include:

- XS — Extra Small

- S — Small
- M — Medium
- L — Large
- XL — Extra Large

Some clothing uses numbered sizes instead. These numbers can vary depending on the brand, so trying items on is often the best option.

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## Asking to Try Something On

Before buying clothing, many shoppers want to see how it fits.

Useful phrases include:

- "Can I try this on?"
- "Where are the fitting rooms?"
- "Could I try a different size?"
- "Do you have this in a medium?"
- "This one feels a little too small."

Trying on clothes can help you avoid returns and make better purchasing decisions.

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## Talking About Fit

After trying something on, you may need to describe how it feels.

Common expressions include:

- "It's too tight."
- "It's too loose."
- "It's a little too big."
- "It's a little too small."
- "It fits perfectly."
- "It's very comfortable."

These phrases are useful when asking for a different size.

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## Asking About Colors

You may find the perfect item but want it in a different color.

Useful questions include:

- "Do you have this in black?"
- "Does this come in blue?"
- "What other colors are available?"
- "Do you have a darker color?"
- "Do you carry this in navy?"

Most stores keep multiple colors of popular items.

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## Describing Colors

Some common color names include:

- Black
- White
- Gray
- Brown
- Red
- Blue
- Green
- Yellow
- Pink
- Purple
- Navy
- Beige

Learning basic color vocabulary makes shopping conversations much easier.

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## Combining Size and Color Requests

Often you need a specific size and color at the same time.

For example:

- "Do you have this shirt in black, medium?"
- "Can I see this jacket in a large, in navy?"
- "Do you have these pants in a smaller size and a different color?"

These questions sound natural and are commonly used in stores throughout the United States.

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## When the Store Doesn't Have What You Need

Sometimes your preferred size or color isn't available.

In these situations, you can ask:

- "Will you be getting more soon?"
- "Do you have it at another location?"
- "Can I order it online?"
- "Is there a similar style available?"

Employees can often help you find alternatives.

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## Understanding Employee Responses

Store employees may say things like:

- "Let me check in the back."
- "We're currently out of that size."
- "We have it in blue, but not black."
- "That color is sold out."
- "We should have more next week."

Listening for these phrases will help you follow the conversation more easily.

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## Building Confidence While Shopping 😊

Finding the right size and color is a normal part of shopping. Don't worry about asking questions. The more you practice these expressions, the easier it becomes to communicate clearly and find exactly what you're looking for.

Remember: asking questions is often the fastest way to get the right product.

# 4. Paying for Your Purchase

## Getting Ready to Pay 💳

After choosing your items, you'll head to the checkout area to complete your purchase. This is usually the final part of the shopping experience.

The cashier may greet you and begin scanning your items. During this process, they might ask several questions before you pay.

Being familiar with common checkout language can make the transaction quick and stress-free.

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## Common Ways to Pay

Most stores in the United States accept several payment methods.

These include:

- Credit card
- Debit card
- Cash
- Contactless payment
- Mobile payment apps

If you're ready to pay, you can say:

- "I'll pay by card."
- "I'll pay with cash."
- "Can I use a credit card?"
- "Do you take contactless payments?"
- "Can I pay with my phone?"

These are all natural expressions commonly used by shoppers.

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## Understanding Cashier Questions

Cashiers often ask simple questions during checkout.

Common examples include:

- "Cash or card?"
- "How would you like to pay?"
- "Will that be cash or credit?"
- "Do you have a rewards card?"
- "Would you like a receipt?"

Learning these questions will help you feel more comfortable at the register.

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## Paying with a Card

Card payments are extremely common in the United States.

You may hear:

- "Please insert your card."
- "You can tap when you're ready."
- "Please swipe your card."
- "The terminal is ready."

When using a card, simply follow the instructions on the payment screen.

If you're unsure what to do, ask:

- "Where should I tap?"
- "Do I need to insert it?"
- "Should I remove my card now?"

Most cashiers will gladly help.

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## Useful Payment Phrases

Here are some practical expressions for everyday shopping:

- "Card, please."
- "I'll use my debit card."
- "Can I split the payment?"
- "Can I use two cards?"
- "Can I pay part in cash and part by card?"

These phrases are especially useful when making larger purchases.

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## Understanding Receipts

After you pay, the cashier will usually offer a receipt.

Common questions include:

- "Would you like your receipt?"
- "Do you need a printed receipt?"
- "Would you like an email receipt?"

You can respond with:

- "Yes, please."
- "No, thanks."
- "An email receipt is fine."
- "I'd like a printed receipt."

Keeping your receipt is useful in case you need to make a return or exchange.

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## **When a Payment Problem Happens**

Occasionally, payment issues occur.

Common situations include:

- The card isn't accepted.
- The payment terminal freezes.
- The transaction doesn't go through.
- The card is declined.

Useful phrases include:

- "The machine isn't reading my card."
- "Could I try again?"
- "I think the payment didn't go through."
- "Do you have another payment terminal?"
- "Can I use a different card?"

Staying calm and polite usually solves the problem quickly.

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## Understanding Common Responses

Cashiers may respond with phrases such as:

- "Please try again."
- "The transaction was approved."
- "The payment didn't go through."
- "Your card has been accepted."
- "Everything looks good."

These expressions are commonly heard at checkout counters throughout the United States.

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## Before Leaving the Register

Before walking away, take a moment to make sure you have everything.

Check that you have:

- Your card
- Your receipt
- Your purchases
- Any change you received

Many people accidentally leave items behind when they are distracted.

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## Building Confidence at Checkout 😊

Most checkout conversations are short and predictable. Once you learn a few key phrases, paying for purchases becomes one of the easiest shopping situations to handle in English.

The more often you practice these expressions, the more natural and confident you'll feel every time you reach the register.

# 5. Asking for a Bag

## Requesting a Bag 🛍️

After paying for your items, you may need a bag to carry your purchase home. In many stores, cashiers will ask if you need one, but sometimes you'll need to ask yourself.

The most common way to ask is:

- "Can I have a bag, please?"
- "Could I get a bag, please?"
- "Do you have any bags available?"

These phrases are polite, simple, and appropriate in almost any store.

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## Different Types of Bags

Stores may offer different bag options depending on local regulations and store policies.

Common bag types include:

- Plastic bag
- Paper bag
- Reusable bag

You can ask:

- "Do you have paper bags?"
- "Could I get a plastic bag?"
- "Do you sell reusable bags?"

Knowing these terms will help you understand the cashier's questions more easily.

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## Understanding Cashier Questions

Cashiers frequently ask questions about bags during checkout.

You may hear:

- "Do you need a bag?"
- "Would you like a bag today?"
- "Paper or plastic?"
- "Do you have your own bag?"
- "Would you like a reusable bag?"

These questions are very common in stores throughout the United States.

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## Responding to Bag Questions

Simple responses work perfectly.

Examples include:

- "Yes, please."
- "No, thank you."
- "Paper is fine."
- "Plastic, please."
- "I brought my own bag."

Short, polite answers are completely natural.

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## Asking for More Than One Bag

Sometimes your purchase is too large or heavy for a single bag.

Useful requests include:

- "Could I have two bags, please?"
- "Can I get an extra bag?"
- "Could you put these in separate bags?"
- "These items are a little heavy."

Store employees are usually happy to help organize your purchase safely.

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## Protecting Fragile Items

Certain items may need additional protection.

You can say:

- "Could you wrap this separately?"
- "This item is fragile."
- "Could you put this in its own bag?"
- "Can you be careful with this, please?"

These requests are especially useful for glass, electronics, and delicate products.

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## Asking About Bag Fees

Some cities and states charge for certain types of bags.

If you're unsure, ask:

- "Do bags cost extra?"
- "Is there a charge for bags?"
- "How much is a bag?"
- "Are paper bags free?"

It's always okay to ask before the cashier adds the charge to your total.

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## When You Don't Need a Bag

Not every purchase requires one.

Useful responses include:

- "I don't need a bag, thanks."
- "I'll carry it."
- "I'll put it in my backpack."
- "I brought my own bag."

Many shoppers choose these options to reduce waste and avoid extra fees.

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## Common Vocabulary

Here are some useful words related to bags:

- **Bag** — something used to carry purchases
- **Paper bag** — a bag made from paper
- **Plastic bag** — a lightweight disposable bag
- **Reusable bag** — a durable bag designed for multiple uses
- **Bag fee** — an additional charge for a bag

Learning these terms will make checkout conversations easier to follow.

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## Building Confidence 😊

Asking for a bag is a small but common part of shopping in English. Whether you need one bag, several bags, or no bag at all, these simple expressions will help you communicate clearly and politely.

With a little practice, you'll be able to handle this part of the checkout process naturally and confidently.

## Shoe Sizes: United States vs. Mexico

US Men's Size	Mexico (CM)	US Women's Size	Mexico (CM)
6	24	7	24
7	25	8	25
8	26	9	26
9	27	10	27
10	28	11	28
11	29	12	29
12	30	13	30

## Women's Pant Size Comparison Chart (U.S. and Mexico)

U.S. Size	Mexico Size
2	24
4	26
6	28
8	30
10	32
12	34
14	36
16	38
18	40
20	42