

# SHOPPING

## STOP POURING YOUR MONEY DOWN THE DRAIN!

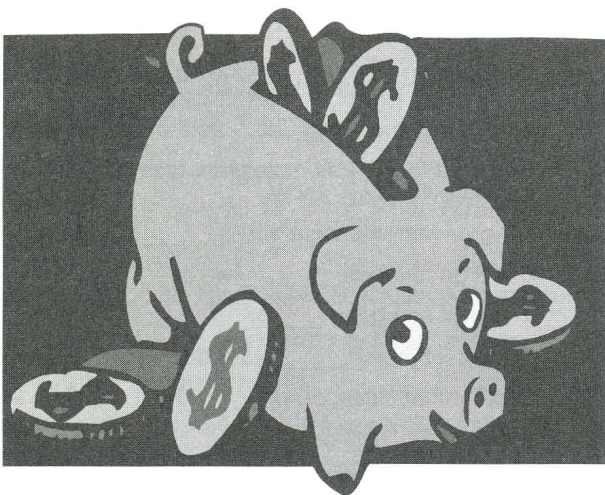
A little extra money. That's what everybody wants, right? Just a little extra cash to spend on a vacation or a special something for the house. For most people, however, just paying for the regular bills and household shopping takes up every penny of their wages or salary. Well, take another look at those bills and receipts, and you'll see a hundred different ways to save money, **BIG MONEY**, just by being a little bit more careful in your household shopping.

For most people, the biggest drain on the household budget is food. Just buying a little box of cereal or some rice for the house can pump up your shopping bill by an incredible amount. One of the ways to counter this is by forming a buying club and buying in bulk. Buying clubs are groups of people who get together and buy directly from the large wholesalers who sell food to such places as restaurants and bakeries. These distributors only sell in very large quantities, and most people don't need a hundred pounds of rice. That's why people form clubs, two or three households which split up the goods between themselves. You can't get everything from a wholesaler - only non-perishable goods like grains,

tinned goods, and pastas. But you can stock your pantry for as little as half the price you would pay in a large supermarket.

The number one rule for anyone wishing to save money is - *never* buy anything new, unless you absolutely have to. Every day our society throws away everything from clothes to household appliances which are perfectly usable, simply because somebody wants the newest model or the latest fashion. Of course, you don't have to go searching through the dump. But you can find perfectly good clothes at second-hand shops, tools and equipment at flea markets, and appliances and furniture at charity organisations like the Salvation Army. At these places, you can not only get a good deal, but support a good cause as well. You must always be careful to buy quality goods, and not just something that will break down on you in a few weeks.

If you decide that you want to treat yourself and buy something new, there are still ways of saving money. Never buy anything until you have shopped around and compared the prices a little. The end of the year, when most shops hold clearance sales to make room for the new year's models, is the best time to get a great deal on new goods. Reject shops sell slightly damaged goods which, except for minor imperfections, are just like new except at almost half the price. For an even better deal, ask the clerk if you can buy the demonstration model. If it's been used, even only once, it can't be sold as new at a new goods price. So throw out all of those old bills, get out your newspapers, and while you're looking for sales, take a look at the travel section too. You'll soon have enough money for that vacation you've been dreaming of.



**1** What is the difference between these places to shop? **4** Find a word in the text for each of the following:  
 What are each of them best for?  
 What are some of their drawbacks?

supermarket  
 corner shop  
 street market  
 second-hand shop

**2** What do you spend the most money on?  
 Is there any way you could spend less money on those things?

Discuss ways to save money on the following things:

food  
 entertainment  
 clothes  
 household appliances  
 furniture

**3** Read the text and decide on titles for each paragraph and write them in the spaces provided.

- a constant outflow, withdrawal, or expenditure
- the amount of money that you have to spend
- an agent who supplies goods in bulk
- the occupants of a house regarded as a unit
- subject to speedy decay
- a device or piece of equipment used for a specific task
- a place for depositing rubbish
- an institution or organization for helping those in need
- shops with sub-standard goods
- a slight fault or blemish

**5** Here are the answers to some questions about the text. Try to guess what the questions were.

Because they spend all of their money on bills and household expenses.

To bakeries and restaurants.

No, it would be too much food.

Never buy anything new.

Because they get tired of them and want something new.

You get a good deal and help a good cause.

To make room for the new models.

Because it has been used in demonstrations.

## Going Shopping

shop assistant (GB)  
 sales clerk / salesman, saleswoman (US)  
 attendant  
 shopkeeper  
 cashier  
 customer  
 shopper  
 consumer  
 hard / difficult to please  
 shopping area / precinct  
 supermarket  
 hypermarket  
 superstore  
 shopping list  
 to shop for st  
 a good shop for (e.g. glass)  
 shopping centre  
 shopping mall  
 arcade  
 marketplace  
 cash and carry  
 market  
 market stall  
 covered market

flea market  
 auction  
 jumble sale (GB)  
 car-boot sale (GB)  
 garage sale (US)  
 junk shop  
 second-hand shop  
 reject shop  
 factory shop  
 catalogue shop  
 mail order / catalogue shopping  
 cardboard box  
 string bag  
 to do some shopping  
 to go window-shopping  
 to be looking for st  
 to be trying to find st  
 to have run out of st  
 to be out of st / out of stock  
 to shop around  
 to chase around the shops  
 to call at  
 it's hard to get  
 it isn't available

in great demand  
 in short supply  
 sold out  
 supply × demand  
 to come across st  
 (shop) window  
 to dress a window  
 window dresser  
 counter  
 row of shelves  
 deep-freeze counter  
 trolley (GB) / cart (US)  
 (wire) basket  
 cash-desk / till  
 queue (GB) / line (US)  
 to queue up for (GB) / stand in line (US) / line up (US)  
 shoplifter  
 pickpocket  
 shop detective  
 to purchase  
 opening hours  
 business hours  
 to stay open

to close  
 early closing day  
 to take st back  
 shop (GB) / store (US)  
 department store (Harrods, Selfridges, Tesco, C&A)  
 discount store  
 corner shop  
 village shop  
 chain store

### Notices

STOCKTAKING (GB) / INVENTORY (US)  
 BACK IN A MOMENT  
 LUNCH HOUR  
 CLOSING-DOWN SALE  
 SHUT FOR REPAIRS  
 THIEVES WILL BE PROSECUTED  
 BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS

# SHOPPING – AND MORE PRACTICE...

The following expressions have been jumbled. Put them back into the right places in the sentences below.

DISCOUNT MALLS PRICES SHOPPING SMALL MAIL SHOPS SALE  
ORDER PRICE RETAIL CLEARANCE

- 1 Hypermarket distributors face tough competition from specialised chain stores which can match their \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2–3 Inspired by the huge \_\_\_\_\_ of the United States, the French hypermarket not only offers cut-rate prices that \_\_\_\_\_ cannot match, but also cheap restaurants, clowns, pony rides and cinemas – everything one might need to enjoy a weekend.
- 4 Passengers will be able to make phone calls, receive faxes and phone messages, shop by \_\_\_\_\_ and even play computer games.
- 5 The monthly \_\_\_\_\_ index is a lagging indicator of inflation, as well as an imperfect one.
- 6 A \_\_\_\_\_ is a sale in which the goods in a shop are sold at reduced prices, because the shopkeeper wants to get rid of them quickly or because the shop is closing down.

## Fill in the missing words.

Computer technology has had a significant impact on retail stores. All but the smallest shops have replaced the old-fashioned cash **7** r\_\_\_\_\_ with a terminal linked to a computer system. The terminal may require that the **8** c\_\_\_\_\_ type in the code for the **9** i\_\_\_\_\_; but more and more frequently the **10** c\_\_\_\_\_ counter includes a bar-code scanner, a device that directly reads into the computer the universal product **11** c\_\_\_\_\_ (UPC) printed on each package. The cash-register **12** r\_\_\_\_\_ can then include brief descriptions of the items purchased (by fetching them from the computer database), and the **13** p\_\_\_\_\_ information is also relayed back to the computer to adjust the inventory immediately. The **14** i\_\_\_\_\_ system can easily alert the **15** m\_\_\_\_\_ when the supply of some item drops below a specified threshold. In the case of **16** r\_\_\_\_\_ chains linked by networks, the order for a new supply of an item may be automatically generated and sent electronically to the supply **17** w\_\_\_\_\_.

## Match the words on the left with the goods on the right. Use each word once only.

- |           |             |          |                             |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| <b>18</b> | a tube of   | <b>a</b> | jam                         |
| <b>19</b> | a bunch of  | <b>b</b> | wine / milk / beer / whisky |
| <b>20</b> | a jar of    | <b>c</b> | bread                       |
| <b>21</b> | a pad of    | <b>d</b> | writing paper               |
| <b>22</b> | a loaf of   | <b>e</b> | flowers / bananas / grapes  |
| <b>23</b> | a carton of | <b>f</b> | milk / fruit juice          |
| <b>24</b> | a bottle of | <b>g</b> | toothpaste                  |

## Change the incorrect word in the following phrases.

- 25** Have you got a tie to snatch?
- 26** Does the display price conclude VAT?
- 27** Would you like to pretend the guarantee?
- 28** Are you being listened to?
- 29** What taste do you take?
- 30** Could I have a cook at that one?