

ESL Session 3: Shopping for College Students

Hello College Student!

What You'll Practice Today


- Shopping and money vocabulary for campus life
- Asking for prices and information
- Comparing items using adjectives
- Pronunciation of numbers and prices
- Having conversations while shopping
- Creating a budget-friendly shopping list

Section 1: Conversation Practice

How to practice:

1. Read each conversation phrase out loud
2. Practice saying it clearly and naturally
3. Try using hand gestures or facial expressions

Shopping for Textbooks and Supplies

Example: "How much is this textbook?" 


Try saying:

- "Excuse me, how much does this laptop cost?"
- "What's the price of these notebooks?"

Your Practice: _____

Tip: Use a rising intonation at the end of questions about prices.

Asking About Availability

Example: "Do you have this in stock?" 

Try saying:

- "Is this item available online?"
- "Can I order this if it's not in store?"

Your Practice: _____

Tip: Be specific about what you're looking for when asking availability questions.

Comparing Items

Example: "This one is cheaper than that one." 💰

Try saying:

- "The digital version is less expensive than the hardcover."
- "These wireless earbuds are more reliable than those wired ones."

Your Practice: _____

Tip: Use comparative adjectives correctly to make clear comparisons.

At the Checkout

Example: "I would like to pay with my student card." 💳

Try saying:

- "Can I use my campus meal points for this purchase?"
- "Do you offer a student discount?"

Your Practice: _____

Tip: Many stores offer special discounts for students - always ask!

Section 2: Numbers and Prices

How to do this:

1. Practice saying each price clearly
2. Pay attention to the dollar sign (\$) and decimal point (.)
3. Remember to stress the correct syllables

\$19.99

Say it like: "Nineteen dollars and ninety-nine cents"

Or: "Nineteen ninety-nine"

Your Practice: _____

\$45.75

Say it like: "Forty-five dollars and seventy-five cents"

Or: "Forty-five seventy-five"

Your Practice: _____

\$199.00

Say it like: "One hundred ninety-nine dollars"

Or: "A hundred and ninety-nine dollars"

Your Practice: _____

\$8.50

Say it like: "Eight dollars and fifty cents"

Or: "Eight fifty"

Your Practice: _____

\$299.99

Say it like: "Two hundred ninety-nine dollars and ninety-nine cents"

Or: "Two ninety-nine ninety-nine"

Your Practice: _____

Section 3: Comparing with Adjectives

How to do this:

1. Learn how to compare two things
2. Practice saying the correct form of each adjective
3. Make your own comparison sentences

One-Syllable Adjectives: Add -er

cheap → cheaper

Example: "This e-book is cheaper than the printed version."

Your Practice: _____

fast → faster

Example: "My new laptop is faster than my old one."

Your Practice: _____

light → lighter

Example: "These wireless headphones are lighter than the over-ear ones."

Your Practice: _____

Two-Syllable and Longer Adjectives: Use "more"

expensive → more expensive

Example: "Brand-name electronics are more expensive than generic ones."

Your Practice: _____

convenient → more convenient

Example: "Online shopping is more convenient than going to the mall."

Your Practice: _____

reliable → more reliable

Example: "This brand is more reliable than the cheaper alternatives."

Your Practice: _____

Irregular Comparatives

good → better

Example: "The campus bookstore has better service than the one downtown."

Your Practice: _____

bad → worse

Example: "The Wi-Fi connection in the library is worse than in the dorms."

Your Practice: _____


Section 4: Shopping Conversation


How to do this:


1. Practice this dialogue with your language partner
2. Pay attention to your intonation
3. Try to sound natural and confident


At a Campus Bookstore



Customer: Excuse me, can you help me find the textbooks for Psychology 101? 



Employee: Of course! They're in the Social Sciences section. Are you looking for new or used copies? 


Customer: I'd prefer used if you have them. Are they much cheaper? 


Employee: Yes, the used copies are \$65.99, while new ones are \$129.99. 

Customer: That's quite a difference! I'll definitely take the used one. Do you have any digital versions? 



Employee: We do! The e-book version is available for \$49.99. It's less expensive and you can access it immediately.  

Customer: That sounds perfect for my budget. I'll get the digital version.  

Employee: Great choice! You can download it using the code on this card. Will you be using your student ID for payment? 

Customer: Yes, please. Can I also get a 10% discount with my student ID? 

Employee: Absolutely! That brings your total to \$44.99. 

Customer: Perfect, thank you!  

Your Practice: _____

Section 5: Vocabulary Practice

How to do this:

1. Match each word with its definition
2. Practice pronouncing each word
3. Try to use each word in a sentence

Shopping Vocabulary for College Life

1. Budget ____
2. Discount ____
3. Subscription ____
4. Receipt ____
5. Refund ____
6. Online cart ____
7. Comparison shopping ____
8. Student discount ____

9. Digital download _____

10. Free shipping _____

Definitions:


- A. Money returned when you're not satisfied with a purchase
- B. A plan for how to spend your money
- C. A virtual space where selected items are stored before checkout
- D. A reduction in price, often with a student ID
- E. Buying something regularly for a set price (like streaming services)
- F. A piece of paper or email showing proof of purchase
- G. Getting items delivered without an extra charge
- H. A lower price offered specifically to students
- I. Checking prices at different stores before buying
- J. Purchasing and receiving content through the internet



Your Practice: _____



Section 6: Reading Practice: Shopping on a Student Budget


How to do this:



1. First read silently
2. Then read out loud, sentence by sentence
3. Pay attention to punctuation and emotions


Alex is a first-year student who needs to buy supplies for the new semester. He has a limited budget of \$300 for everything. 


First, Alex makes a list of essential items: a laptop charger, three textbooks, notebooks, and a new backpack. He estimates the total will cost around \$400. "That's over my budget," he thinks. "I need to find some discounts."  


Alex starts comparison shopping online. The university bookstore sells the textbooks for \$85 each. "That's \$255 just for books!" he says to himself. Then he checks a textbook rental website. "I can rent digital versions for only \$39.99 each. That's much cheaper!"  



For the backpack, Alex looks at several options. A brand-name backpack costs \$79.99, but a similar one from a less popular brand is only \$45.50. "The cheaper one has better reviews and looks more durable," he notes. 


Alex also finds a used laptop charger online for \$24.99 instead of buying a new one for \$59.99. "Buying used items is better for my budget and for the environment," he thinks.  

When shopping for notebooks, Alex discovers that the campus store offers a 15% student discount. "Do you have your student ID?" asks the cashier. 

"Yes, here it is," Alex replies. "How much is my total with the discount?" 

"Your total comes to \$12.75," says the cashier. "Would you like to pay with cash or card?" 

"I'll use my debit card," says Alex. He pays and takes his receipt. "Thank you!"  

In the end, Alex manages to get everything he needs for \$287.22, which is under his budget. He feels satisfied with his smart shopping decisions. 

Reading Questions:

1. How much was Alex's budget? _____
2. What did Alex need to buy? _____
3. How did Alex save money on textbooks? _____
4. What did Alex consider when choosing a backpack? _____
5. How much did Alex spend in total? _____

Section 7: Writing Practice: My Shopping Budget

How to do this:

1. Create a semester shopping budget with 8-10 items
2. Add estimated prices for each item
3. Calculate the total cost
4. Write 3-5 sentences about how you can save money

My Semester Shopping Budget:

1. _____ \$ _____
2. _____ \$ _____
3. _____ \$ _____
4. _____ \$ _____
5. _____ \$ _____
6. _____ \$ _____

7. _____ \$ _____

8. _____ \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

How I can save money this semester:

Wrap-Up: For Next Time

New Words I Want to Learn:

Things to Practice:
