

At the Grocery Store

Going to the grocery store or supermarket is a regular task in any country or language. Whether your students will be traveling or living abroad, this lesson is great for teaching food and shopping vocabulary.

Aim: To teach students about the supermarket and shopping

Skills: Speaking, listening, comprehension

Materials: Blackboard, handout for students

Level: Easy to intermediate

Time: 45 minutes to 1 hour

Part 1: Introduction (10 minutes)

Introduce the topic to the students. Talk about unusual things you can buy in your grocery store. Have students think and discuss scenarios when they must speak or read in the grocery store in their native language. Discuss how students can do the following in English:

1. Ask to have produce weighed. How to understand the price.
2. Ask the butcher about the price of meat and how much you want to buy.
3. Learn how grocery stores are organized (e.g. produce, processed foods, international food, candy, soft drinks, alcohol, etc.)

Part 2: Activity (20 minutes)

Hand out the worksheet provided above.

Explain the differences between the **customer** and **clerk**. Assign the students their roles in their pairs. Let each pair plan each role play scenario with the help of the worksheet.

Make sure they understand that they need to improvise a lot of the role play on their own. Have them write information and phrases down before they get started so they have something to guide them during the role play.

Get the students to do a quick practice role play session with a partner. Walk around to see if anyone needs help. Talk about how to do better role plays as a group.

Part 3: Role Play (20 minutes)

Once each pair finishes their practice role play, have each customer find a new clerk. Have all the clerks remain seated and get the customers to rotate around the classroom.

Once everyone has a new partner, have the customers initiate one of the role play scenarios and act it out with the new clerk. The clerk must respond to the new customer's questions. This time the students should try to perform the role play without notes.

Part 4: Review (5-10 minutes)

Did anyone buy something unusual? Which grocery store was the most expensive? Which one was the cheapest? Did you understand where things were in the grocery store? Did any store not have what you were looking for?

Further practice suggestions

Have students film an exchange at a grocery store with an English speaking clerk. If you're not located in an English-speaking country, or if they aren't comfortable asking strangers to be on camera, have students get creative and make short videos showing themselves at the grocery store using the vocabulary they learned in this module.

