

Talk Time Topic: Holiday Shopping

Let's get started...

Talk as a group about the problems that come with holiday shopping. Now, answer this question. What can I do to be more successful with my holiday shopping?

Background:

Holiday shopping can be very stressful in the United States, however, by planning ahead and making a shopping strategy, you can save money, avoid big crowds and find the gifts you are looking for.



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Do you like to shop? Why or why not?

What are your three favorite stores? Why are they your favorites?

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

What are three things you can do to make your holiday shopping more successful?

What are three things you can do to reduce holiday stress?

What is the best time to go shopping for gifts on busy shopping days? Why?

What are the best sales in your opinion? Why?

What are the worst sales? Why do you think this?

How can you find out about sales that are coming?

How can you get the best bargains?

What words do you need to know to understand the different types of sales? What are some of the differences in these sales?

What do you look for when you are trying to find a sale?

How is holiday shopping different in your country?

What kind of places do you go to shop in your native country?

What do you like about holiday shopping? What do you dislike?

Do you like shopping for clothes for other people? Why or why not?

Do you like to shop alone or with someone else?

What is the best “deal” you’ve ever gotten?

What is the most difficult part of shopping in the U.S.?

Do you know the saying to be “taken to the laundry”? What does it mean? Do you have a similar saying in your country?

Have you ever been “taken to the laundry”? What happened? How did you feel?

Have you “shopped till you dropped”? When? Why?

How do people usually pay when they go shopping in your native country? How do you think most people pay when they go shopping in the U.S.?

Many stores offer discounts for people who sign up for credit cards. In your opinion, is it a good idea to sign up for credit cards when you are shopping? Why or why not?

Do stores offer credit cards in your native country?

What kind of information do you need to know when you buy something expensive for a gift?

Can you return gifts in your country?

In the U.S., some people re-gift something if they do not need it. Do people do this in your country? Do you think that it is a good idea? Why or why not?

New words and Idioms:

Outlet store, department store, discount store, drugstore, chain store, clearance sale, inventory sales, anniversary sale, bargain, a good price, a good deal, irregular, sample, impulse shopping, planning ahead, a shopping strategy, Christmas in July, “shop till you drop”, “to cost an arm and a leg”, “to be taken to the cleaners”, etc.