

Eastside Literacy Talk Time Winter 2006

Topic: Stores, Sales & Shopping

Let's get started...

As a group, brainstorm: What makes a good gift?

New words and Idioms:

Department store, chain store, specialty shop, outlet store (factory outlet), thrift store, consignment store, garage sale, clearance, bargain, irregular, sample, "going-out-of-business" sale, impulse shopping, "buyer's remorse", to "get your money back," defective, return, complain, to "get a good deal", to "drive a hard bargain", to "shop till you drop", to "cost an arm and a leg", etc.

Background:

(Ideas taken from: www.allthingsfrugal.com.)

Certain items go on sale at different times of the year. Here is a list of items that regularly go on sale. Most of these are common sense. Most items go on sale at the beginning of the season they are used due to competition for sales. They also go on sale at the end of the season during clearance sales. There are also traditional sales and inventory clearance sales at the end of the year on almost everything.

January: Winter clothes, holiday clearance, January white sale (the traditional sale for linens, towels, bedding, etc.).

February: Household items, furniture and other textiles, dinnerware, electronics.

March: Garden supplies, luggage, spring clothing and shoes, storm windows, winter outdoor-recreation equipment.

April: Seasonal clothes, clearance on Easter dresses and accessories, clearance on men's suits and ties.

May: Traditional white sales (on linens, blankets and towels), tires, home maintenance items, handbags, lingerie.

June: Summer clothing, television sets, refrigerators, home improvement products.

July: Clearance on summer clothes and bathing suits, clearance on air conditioners, home appliances, rugs and carpets, radios and stereo equipment, summer sports equipment, used cars.

August: Furniture; traditional white sales; clearance on outdoor sports equipment; clearance on barbecues, air conditioners, fans, lawn mowers; school supplies; new car clearance.

September: Back to school clothes & supplies, gardening supplies, rugs, lamps and dishes, bicycles.

October: Fishing supplies, school clothes and supplies clearance, cars, crystal and silver.

November: Coats, boots, gloves, quilts and blankets, heating devices and appliances.

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December: Toys, holiday items on sale (tablecloths, gift items, party ware), day after Christmas markdowns.



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

Tell about the best gift that you ever gave someone.

Tell about the best gift that you have ever received.

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

Are there popular shopping times in your native country?

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

Where do you like to shop in the U. S.?

Did you ever receive a gift that you did not want?

What happened?

Can you return something to a store in your native country?

Have you ever returned something to a store and asked for your money back in the U.S.? What happened?

Do you think fashion is important? What kinds of clothes do you usually wear? Why do you wear these clothes?

Do you like shopping for new clothes? How often do you buy new clothes?

Do people in your country wear all colors? Do some colors have a special meaning?

How do women and men dress in your native country? Does your native country have traditional clothing? If yes, when do people wear it?

Where do you shop for groceries and food items? Why did you choose that grocery store?

How often do you go grocery shopping in the U. S.? How often did you go in your native country?

Which grocery store has the best prices for:

produce?

meat?

dairy?

organic and natural foods?

Can you return items to grocery stores in your native country? Have you returned anything to a grocery store in the U. S.?