

## Chatterbox #40 – Shopping

### Transcript

Jessie: Hi, this is Jessie.

Harp: And Harp. And we're here today at Culips.com bringing you fun, exciting, free ESL podcasts.

Jessie: And today's podcast is a Chatterbox episode, and that's where we chat about different topics that you might find interesting. We might talk about an interesting event that's going on right now, or we might talk about some particular aspect of the English language or North American culture.

Harp: Exactly. But before we get started, make sure you go to our website, that's Culips.com: C-U-L-I-P-S, where you can find all our older episodes, 'cause they're **oldies but goodies**. And at the website, you can become a member. And once you're a member, you can access the learning guide, where you can find a transcript, a detailed explanation, and even a quiz.

Jessie: Great! So now let's get right to our episode.

Harp: What are we talking about today in our Chatterbox episode, Jessie?

Jessie: Well, today we're going to be talking about a subject that I know you'll enjoy, and that is shopping.

Harp: Oh, I love shopping!

Jessie: So, today we're gonna talk about a few different aspects of shopping: first we're going to talk about different people's attitude towards shopping, then we'll talk about some different kinds of shopping that you can do, and then we'll talk a little about how shopping has changed since the Internet. And throughout this episode, we'll also be providing you with some useful vocabulary so that you can talk about shopping in an everyday English conversation.

- Jessie: Well, we said the first thing we were going to talk about was different people's attitudes about shopping. And I can tell you that my attitude towards shopping is not usually very positive. I don't like shopping. I feel like I have to **drag myself** to the store. It's a big **chore** that I have to do. I'm so happy when I'm finished.
- Harp: Oh Jessie, I still remember the time we went shopping together.
- Jessie: Oh, that's right! See, Harp and I are a good pair, because she loves shopping.
- Harp: I love it! And I love helping other people shop as well. So one time, I took Jessie shopping because she needed to buy a dress for a ... wedding, I think?
- Jessie: Yeah. I was invited to my friend's wedding and I had nothing to wear, and I hate shopping, so I called Harp and asked her if she would help me find a dress.
- Harp: And we did find a dress.
- Jessie: Yes, Harp was an excellent personal shopper. She helped me so much. She helped me choose the dress; she stood outside the changing room and gave me her opinion on everything I tried on; she brought me different dresses **to try on**; she gave me some really great suggestions.
- Harp: I'm a good personal shopper.
- Jessie: So, as you can see, even between two friends there can be a big difference in how people feel about shopping.
- Harp: Definitely.
- Jessie: For me, I have **a love-hate relationship** with shopping: I hate going to the store and **trying everything on**, but I still kind of love the feeling of getting something new, getting a new outfit or something new to wear.
- Harp: That's funny, 'cause I love shopping. I love grocery shopping, I love **back-to-school** shopping, I love shopping. It's **a guilty pleasure** for me.

- Jessie: What would you say is your biggest **guilty pleasure** when it comes to shopping?
- Harp: Umm ... It's definitely a **toss-up** between shoes and purses.
- Jessie: I think that's a common **guilty pleasure** among North American women in general.
- Harp: Yeah. I have so many pairs of shoes and I just can't stop. And really, do I need a purse in every colour? But somehow, when I'm shopping, I convince myself I do.
- Jessie: OK. So, we've already mentioned a few different kinds of shopping: there's clothes shopping and grocery shopping; Christmas shopping, when people shop for presents for their family and friends; **back-to-school** shopping, when you're buying all of your supplies for the new school year. And actually, **back-to-school** shopping is one kind shopping that I don't mind. When I was in school still, I always found it was really fun to go and buy my pencils and pens and all my school supplies. And we usually did it at the end of August, right before school started.
- Harp: I know! And you would get all the pencil crayons in all the different colours and it was so exciting; everything was new and you hadn't used it yet. I loved **back-to-school** shopping.
- Jessie: Me too.
- Harp: And there are even so many different places and types of places to go shopping.
- Jessie: Yeah, absolutely.
- Harp: You could go to a shopping mall, which has lots of different stores in one place. And I find these are really popular in Canada, I think everywhere, but particularly in Canada because it's cold. So you can park your car and go inside for the whole day and do your shopping and you don't have to go back outside. All the stores are all inside.
- Jessie: Yeah, at a mall, you can find everything. There are clothing stores, toy stores, electronics stores, and even restaurants where you can stop for lunch.
- Harp: Yeah, and almost every mall has a **department store**. And so a **department**

**store** is where they have lots of different types of clothes (clothes for men, clothes for women), shoes, usually kitchen stuff, lawnmowers, barbecues, couches ... You can have everything in **a department store**.

Jessie: Right. And it's called **a department store** because it has so many different departments. So there's the women's clothing department, the electronics department, the kitchen department, all that.

Harp: Yeah. Malls are just great in Canada in the winter because, like you mentioned, they even have restaurants. And then some of them have movie theatres and bowling alleys. And there's a mall in hometown—**West Edmonton Mall**—and it was the world's biggest shopping mall, but I don't know if it is now. I think there might be a bigger one somewhere else. But it had it everything. It had waterslides, bowling alley, an amusement park!

Jessie: Yeah, I heard that it even had roller coasters.

Harp: Yeah, it had roller coasters.

Jessie: That's amazing. That's not normal for a mall in Canada, but that was a very famous mall.

Harp: Exactly.

Jessie: Now, another place that you can go shopping that's very different from that is **a thrift store**.

Harp: I have to be honest: I love **thrift stores**. Now, **a thrift store** is where people have donated their clothes that they don't wear or they've donated any household thing that they don't use anymore. And you can go there and you buy them. So they're **second-hand** things or **second-hand** clothing, and you buy them at much cheaper than you would buy them anywhere else.

Jessie: Right. Usually people just donate their items to **a thrift store** when they don't want them anymore. So, when you buy something, it's used, but a lot of times it's still in great condition, and you pay a lot less.

Harp: For sure. I have so many pieces in my wardrobe that I've bought at **thrift stores**. And they're one of a kind because they're older pieces, but they're in great condition, so I love it.

Jessie: Yeah, and a lot of times the most exciting thing about shopping at a **thrift store** is that it feels like **a treasure hunt**. You look through all these things

and a lot of them are too old or too ugly, but then you find that one perfect skirt or that one perfect blouse and it makes you so happy.

Harp: Jessie, it sounds you like going to **a thrift shop**. Is this true?

Jessie: Well, sometimes. Sometimes I can get in the right mood and I can enjoy myself. I do like getting a good bargain.

Harp: Yes, for sure.

Jessie: And there are a few different names for **thrift stores**. Sometimes we call them **second-hand stores** or maybe **a vintage store**. And you can also buy used items at **a flea market**, which is similar to **a thrift store**, or at **a garage sale** or **a yard sale**. And that's when people set up, usually in their yard or in their garage, and they sell their items just like **a thrift store**, except they're doing it on their own property, on their own street.

Harp: Yeah, usually people have **garage sales** when they're moving. So they have a lot of stuff and they want to sell some of the stuff. You can find amazing things at people's **garage sales**.

Jessie: Yeah, they're very popular in the summer too.

Harp: Yes.

Jessie: And some people make an entire hobby out of travelling around to different **garage sales** and seeing the treasures they can find.

Harp: You know, I can't walk by a garage sale without stopping to look what they have.

Jessie: Me neither! Even if you don't buy anything, it's really interesting to see what kind of things people had in their house.

Harp: Exactly, I agree.

- Jessie: So you can find all kinds of things at a **garage sale**, all kinds of things that people have in their houses, so their old books or records, CDs, old clothes, kitchen items. A popular one is exercise equipment, because people buy it with good intentions to exercise and then a few years later, they realize they never use it, so they sell it at their **garage sale**.
- Harp: Yeah, definitely a lot of exercise equipment.
- Jessie: I think you can probably learn a lot about a person or a family by looking at the items they sell at their garage sale.
- Harp: Yeah, it's like all their secrets come out!
- Jessie: So now, our next topic is **online shopping**.
- Harp: Yeah, how shopping has changed with the Internet
- Jessie: And just like shopping in general, there are a lot of different types of online shopping. You can shop for new things at a company website, you can shop for used things at an auction site like eBay, or there are even sites like craigslist where people post advertisements about items they're selling and you can offer to buy them.
- Harp: Exactly. People could spend hours and days doing **online shopping**.
- Jessie: So Harp, do you like **online shopping** as much as regular shopping in a store?
- Harp: You know, actually just today I was thinking about **online shopping**, because I wanna buy a pair of winter boots and I went to the stores and they're all really expensive, so I thought, OK, I'll see what the prices are online. But it's just a bit boring for me.
- Jessie: Well, especially something like boots; I feel like you have **to try it on**, make sure it fits properly.
- Harp: Yeah, I was looking for boots I had already **tried on** to see.
- Jessie: OK, that's very smart then.
- Harp: It was actually very smart, 'cause they're almost half the price.
- Jessie: One thing I love to buy online is books.

- Harp: Oh, interesting.
- Jessie: And the thing I like about that is if I'm sitting there at my computer and I look up a book, it will give me suggestions of other books I might like and then I can immediately look those books up and read about them and even read reviews about them. Whereas if I'm in a book store, I can only look at the book itself. But this way, I have access to the whole Internet to tell me everything I wanna know about the book.
- Harp: Oh, I'm sure you've found lots of new authors that way.
- Jessie: Yeah, it's very useful. Actually, I just bought something else online, from an electronics store. I bought an external hard drive for my computer.
- Harp: Really?
- Jessie: And that was nice because sometimes in an electronics store, the sales people will come and talk to you and try to convince you buy something. Usually they're just being helpful, but sometimes I feel like they're pressuring me. So in the comfort of my own home, I can just read all about the different models and choose the one that's best for me.
- Harp: Oh, that's perfect. One thing that's really nice about **online shopping**, and convenient, is that you can use PayPal.
- Jessie: Yeah, PayPal's a great service.
- Harp: Yeah, PayPal's great, because it's free. All you need is to have a bank account or a credit card, but it's really safe and secure to buy things online.
- Jessie: Yeah, and it doesn't cost anything to use, but it lets you safely and securely pay someone over the Internet.
- Harp: Yup. We use PayPal here at Culips.
- Jessie: Yeah, we use it keep all of our members' information and bank account information, payment information, totally safe and secure when they're paying their membership fee.
- Harp: Exactly.

Jessie: OK, so I think that's about it for today. We've talked about different people's attitudes towards shopping. Some people love it, like Harp.

Harp: I love it!

Jessie: And some people don't love quite so much, like me. We've also talked about some different kinds of shopping that you can do and places that you can go shopping, and we've talked a little bit about online shopping. So that's it for us today.

Harp: That's everything. Make sure you go to the website, Culips.com.

Jessie: We'll see you next time!

Harp: Bye everyone!



## Detailed Explanation

### An oldie but a goodie

The expression ***an oldie but a goodie*** describes something that is old but still good. It's something that was once really popular and even years later is still loved. Some things that are typically described as **oldies but goodies** are songs, movies, and other things in pop culture. Harp says that our Culips episodes from the past are **oldies but goodies!**

### To drag oneself

**To drag** is to pull something heavy, with difficulty, usually with part of the item sliding along the ground. People usually **drag** items, like a suitcase, but you could also **drag** a person by taking their hand and pulling them. By this definition, **to drag yourself** would be impossible, but the expression is based on the idea of the difficulty of moving to a new position. So if you **drag yourself** somewhere, it means that you force yourself, because you really don't want to go.

Because Jessie doesn't like shopping, she has to **drag herself** to go. Jessie has to force herself to go shopping because she doesn't like it.

Here are a couple more examples with **to drag oneself**:

Amanda: Was Herb tired this morning?

Kevin: Yeah, he had to **drag himself** out of bed.

Cameron: I'm going to have to **drag myself** to the party. I'm not feeling very well.

Zach: I don't think you should force yourself to go. Just stay home and take it easy.

### A chore

**A chore** is something you have to do that you don't like to do. It's usually just a small task, but it may be difficult or not enjoyable. The most common **chores** are the tasks we have to do at home, like doing the dishes or cleaning. But really, anything can be described as **a chore** if you don't like to do it. Jessie thinks that shopping is **a chore**, but Harp likes shopping, so it's not a chore to her.

Here's another example with **a chore**:

Ken: I have to take my cousin out tonight. I don't really like spending time with him though.

Jennifer: It's such **a chore** hanging out with people who you'd rather not be around.

To try something on

When shopping, people often **try items on**. *To try something on* is to wear it for a short period of time to see how it looks and feels and to decide if you like it. People **try on** clothes and shoes.

A love-hate relationship

**A love-hate relationship** is one that involves both love and hate. This kind of relationship moves from one extreme to the other. People can have **love-hate relationships** with each other: one moment they love each other and the next they hate each other. People can also have **love-hate relationships** with things, like places, objects, or activities. Jessie says that she has **a love-hate relationship** with shopping.

Jane: Are you going to have some dessert?

Shannon: Not tonight. I have **a love-hate relationship** with cake! I love the way it tastes, but I hate eating all that sugar.

Back-to-school shopping

So much shopping happens before school starts in September that there's even a name for it: **back-to-school shopping**. The most popular items that people buy during this time are school supplies. School supplies include all the things you might need for your classes, like paper, pens, markers, and binders. People might also buy new clothes for school, or any other item that a student might need. In the month of August, lots of commercials and advertisements begin to focus on this kind of shopping.

A guilty pleasure

Every person has their own **guilty pleasures**. **A guilty pleasure** is something that you like to do even though you feel a little guilty about doing it.

Harp's **guilty pleasure** is shopping for shoes and purses. She feels guilty doing it sometimes because she doesn't really need some of the items she buys, or maybe she thinks she should be spending her money on more important things. Even though Harp feels guilty, she loves shopping, and that's why it's also a pleasure!

Some other common **guilty pleasures** are eating unhealthy but tasty foods or listening to music that most people don't like.

Here's an example of someone's **guilty pleasure**:

Bernice: What are you looking at online?

Madison: I'm just catching up on some celebrity gossip. It's my **guilty pleasure**.

#### A toss-up

**A toss-up** is when a decision cannot be made between two things. This idiom comes from tossing a coin up in the air to make a decision. A coin has two sides, so there's an equal chance for either side to land facing up.

Harp's **toss-up** is whether she prefers buying purses or shoes. Both of these are her guilty pleasures, and she can't choose which one is her favourite.

Here are a couple more examples with **a toss-up**:

Greg: I want to go to the concert tonight, but I also want to go with you to the beach for the weekend.

Penny: So what're you going to do?

Greg: I don't know. It's **a toss-up**.

Donna: What are you going to wear to the gala?

Gemma: I haven't decided yet. It's **a toss-up** between this silver dress and my red dress from last year.

Sometimes this is also written as one word: **tossup**.

#### A department store

**A department store** has many departments, so you can get almost anything there. Sears and The Bay are Canada's biggest and most well-known department stores.

Here's a list of some of the departments that most **department stores** have:

Women's clothing

Men's clothing

Makeup and perfume

Furniture

Electronics

Bedroom, bathroom, etc.

### The West Edmonton Mall

This mall offers much more than just shopping. It's the biggest tourist destination in the province of Alberta. It's huge! It has more than 800 stores and many attractions. There are even two hotels at the mall so you don't have to leave!

Harp mentions a few of the many attractions at the mall. Here's a short list of some of the things they have at the mall other than shopping:

- A rollercoaster
- A water park with waterslides
- Movie theatres
- Bowling alleys
- An ice skating rink
- Mini-golf
- An underwater aquarium

### Thrift stores/second-hand stores/vintage stores/flea markets

These are special kinds of places to go shopping where the things you buy have usually already been used by someone else. **Thrift stores** have all different kinds of items, from clothing to furniture.

There are many names for the kind of store where you can buy used items. **Thrift store** and **second-hand store** are synonyms. Sometimes these stores are run by charities and others are for profit. **Vintage stores** are usually more expensive than **thrift stores**. This is because **vintage stores** have items for sale that have been specially selected because they are interesting or attractive. **A flea market** is a little different, because it's a market, not a regular store. At a flea market, you can find really cheap used items and also really expensive used items. You never know what you'll see when you go to **a flea market**!

### Second-hand

When something is described as **second-hand**, it means that it's used. If you imagine that "the first hand" is the person who has the item the first time, then when "the second hand" has the item, it has already been used. We can use **second-hand** to talk about a store or the used item itself.

Compare the following examples:

Herb got this shirt **second-hand**.

Herb got this shirt at a **second-hand** store.

Herb's shirt is **second-hand**.

#### A treasure hunt

A **treasure hunt** is an organized activity where people follow clues and try to find a **treasure**. The **treasure** could be any kind of prize. The idea for this kind of game comes from actual **hunting** for **treasure**. It's not very common, but some people search for real historical **treasures** by doing research about the treasure's possible location.

In this episode, the phrase **treasure hunt** is used differently. People sometimes say that looking for something important that's not easy to find is a **treasure hunt**. Jessie says that shopping at a thrift store is like going on a **treasure hunt**. It's not always easy to find things you like at a thrift store, but when you do find something special, it can feel like you've discovered a treasure!

Here's another example with **treasure hunt**:

Jean: Do you still have that beautiful necklace you wore to my party last year?

Wanda: Yeah, but I haven't worn it since then. I think it's up in my attic. I'll have to go on a **treasure hunt** to find it.

#### A garage sale/yard sale

A **garage sale** or **yard sale** is a personal sale that people have at their homes, where they sell items that they don't use anymore. You can get almost anything at a **garage sale**, but you never know what you're going to see until you get there.

Here in Canada, people often have **garage sales** in the spring and summer, because the weather is nice. Many people clean their homes at this time, and they often find things they want to get rid of. **Garages sales** are usually on the weekends, when most people aren't at work.

**Garage sales** and **yard sales** got their names because the items for sale are often put in people's garages or on their front yards.

### Online shopping

**Online shopping** is any shopping done on the Internet. This includes all the kinds of websites where you can order something online.

You can go directly to a company's website to buy their products or you can visit a store's website and buy online instead of visiting the store in person. You can also go to an auction website, like eBay, and bid on an item that you would like to have. There are also websites like craigslist where people post about items they would like to sell. People also use sites like craigslist to announce that they're planning to have a garage sale.

### PayPal

If you're a Culips member, you probably already know what PayPal is! It's an electronic money transfer system that allows people to pay for items or services on the Internet and to feel safe about it.

## **Quiz**

**1. Shauna dragged herself to the doctor's.**

**What does this mean?**

- a) Shauna really wanted to see the doctor.
- b) Shauna did not want to see the doctor.
- c) Shauna was going for a check-up.
- d) Shauna couldn't walk.

**2. Which of the following is a small task that you don't enjoy doing?**

- a) a choice
- b) a cafe
- c) a chore
- d) a chuck

**3. Sarah enjoys going horseback riding but she always feels sore the next day. How can we best describe the different ways she feels about horseback riding?**

- a) She loves it.
- b) She hates it.
- c) She has a hate-love relationship with it.
- d) She has a love-hate relationship with it.

**4. Sandra loves watching movies. She especially enjoys watching classic films. One of her favourite things to do is to watch movies all day, even though she feels bad about wasting a whole day.**

**Which of the following best describes Sandra's guilty pleasure?**

- a) watching movies
- b) watching classic films
- c) watching movies all day
- d) not watching movies

- 5. Julian: What should we do today? It's a toss-up between going for a hike and going to the beach.**

**What does this mean?**

- a) He can't decide between going for a hike and going to the beach.
- b) He would rather go for a hike.
- c) He would rather go to the beach.
- d) He doesn't want to go for a hike or go to the beach.

- 6. What is special about the West Edmonton Mall?**

- a) It has a rollercoaster.
- b) It has a water slide.
- c) It has a skating rink.
- d) It has all of the above.

- 7. Sam bought a shirt at a thrift store. He bought it \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) second-hand
- b) first-hand
- c) handy
- d) new

- 8. Justin: I haven't been able to find my old photos from when I was a kid. I think I'll go on a \_\_\_\_\_ this weekend to find them.**

**Please fill in the blank.**

- a) camping trip
- b) treasure hunt
- c) journey
- d) trip



**Answers:**    1.b    2.c    3.d    4.c    5.a    6.d    7.a    8.b