SHOPPING and SERVICES

When we go shopping, we can go either to a big department store or to the shop which specializes in some extra goods, e.g.:

- the greengrocer sells fruit and vegetable
- the butcher sells meat
- the baker sells bread, cakes, rolls or buns
- the tobacconist sells cigarettes and tobacco
- the confectioner or sweet shop sells sweet and icecream
- the fishmonger sells fish
- the florist sells flowers
- the newsagent sells newspapers and magazines
- the men’s wear and women’s wear sells clothes and dresses
- the lingerie sells underwear
- the draper sells cloths and bed clothes
- the wine-merchant sells alcoholic drinks of all kinds
- the ironmonger sells metal goods (tools, pots, pans, nails)
- the dairy sells milk products and eggs
- the stationary sells paper products and office supplies
- the jeweller sells jewellery
- the toyshop sells various toys for children (dolls, teddies)
- the delicatessen sells some exclusive and more expensive food
- the electrical appliances shop sells TV and radio sets, fridges etc.

The most common shop in Britain is the grocer’s. He sells food, such as tea, coffee, sugar, flour, butter, cheese, eggs, jam, tinned food and kitchen needs such as dish soap, detergents and polish.

Another common shop is the chemist’s. You can buy medicines and ointments, toothpaste, combs, bath soap (US – drugstore) – they sell many more things than the British chemist’s - they have a counter where you can buy something to drink and eat.

Food products are usually bought in a self service shop or a supermarket. The supermarket is bigger and you can also buy goods from the chemist and ironmonger here. A hypermarket is very large and sells all possible kinds of food and kitchen and house needs.
Street markets sell various things at stalls in the streets and squares. In a self service store you go in, pick up a basket or a wheeled cart, walk around the shop and choose what you want. At the exit there is a cash-desk or a cashier where you pay for all your merchandise together, either with cash or with your credit card.

Typical features of modern big cities are big department stores (in London – Marks and Spencer, Harrods etc.). They are usually huge buildings equipped with speedy lifts and escalators, where you can buy almost everything from food to furniture. Here are some departments: Boyswear, Girlswear, Beds and beddings, Electronics, Carpets, China and glass, Furniture, Gifts, Households, Lingerie, Toys, Shoes, Stationary, TV and Radio, Tobacco, Bookshop, Watches and Clocks.

The modern shopping mall has increasingly replaced the shopping in the old-fashioned urban downtown. The shopping mall, filled with department stores, specialty shops, fast-food stores and movie multiplexes has come to dominate and has become more and more popular. People purchase food, clothing, entertainment, of course, they can park their car there. Many people like window shopping, strolling in front of shop window, looking at the range of goods on display. Many people enjoy going to chain stores at times of sales to find bargains.

When pay we may use banknotes or coins if we want to pay cash, or a credit card. Money you can earn, inherit, obtain, lend or borrow, save, steal or win in a bet…

An average Czech family goes shopping every day to a local supermarket for necessary food. Once a week they usually do one bigger purchase for the weekend and from time to time they have to buy clothes, shoes, household utensils and equipment.

A foreigner visitor of our country might buy a nice picture book about our country and some postcards, a record or compact disc, cut glass, china and dolls in national costumes.

In Britain it is very frequent to take the washing to the laundry and wait there while the machines are washing it. In the Czech Republic people prefer doing it at home as almost everybody has a washing machine at home but people do use dry-cleaner’s. You take the suits there, coats and covers that can’t be washed in water. People use services of hairdressers’, men barbers. Women like going to beauty salons. You can have your face massaged or complexion cleaned with various cosmetic and chemical substances. Nail studios provide manicure and pedicure.
Fitness centres help you keep fit. If you need a pair of new glasses, you have to go to the optician’s to get one. People buy old books in second hand bookshops, rent flats and houses through estate agent’s, and buy their holidays at the travel agent’s. If you need a photo, you may go to the photographer’s, but if you just need too have your film developed, you go to the chemist’s. When clocks or watches break down, they are taken to the watchmaker’s, shoes are repaired in shoe repair shops. Any defects in cars are removed in car repair shops (garage). Post services are used by most of us. They are post services that deliver us letters, packages, telegrams or money directly home or into the letterbox.

There are more and more companies providing services - for example, various skilled workers – joiners, upholsterers and wall painters, tailors and window cleaners. It is necessary to have a trade licence in order to practice these professions.

Vocabulary:

average – průměrný
greengrocer – zelínář
butcher – řezník
baker – pekař
confectioner – cukrář
tobacconist – trafikant
fishmonger – obchodník s rybami
florist – květinář
newsagent – prodavač novin
draper – obchodník s textilem
dairy – mlékárna
stationary – papírnictví
jewellery – šperky

toy – hračka
pet – domácí zvířátko
appliance – zařízení, přístroj
detergent – čistící/prací prostředek
polish - leštidlo
ointment – pleťový krém
department - oddělení
necessary – nutný
furniture - nábytek
bargain – výhodná koupě
trade licence – živnostenský list
estate agent’s – reální kancelář
dry-cleaner’s - čistírna
Think about the following:

- Do you prefer to shop in a supermarket or a department store where everything is together? Or, do you rather go to a small shop where they sell just one kind of goods? Why?
- Do you think you get more personal service in a small shop where people know you?
- Do you like to browse through various stores to look at what is available or just window shop without necessarily buying anything?
- Have you ever visited a shopping mall in another country? If so, tell about the differences…
- What are some advantages of a shopping mall?
- What do you know about Internet shopping?

Write a paragraph about shopping. Answer these questions:

- What is your favourite shop?
- How often do you go there?
- What do you buy?
- How much money do you usually spend?
- Do you usually buy cheap or expensive things? Why?