



How to Buy Something in a Foreign Shop

KS3 Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

Getting Ready to Shop Abroad

When you travel to another country, one of the most exciting things you can do is visit local shops. But shopping abroad is different from shopping at home—not just because the shops look different, but because people speak a different language and use different money. Learning a few **key phrases** in the local language makes the experience fun and helps shopkeepers understand what you want.

The most important phrase to learn is "**How much does this cost?**" In **French**, you say "Combien ça coûte?" In **Spanish**, it's "¿Cuánto cuesta esto?" In **German**, say "Wie viel kostet das?" These three phrases will help you in some of **Europe's** most popular tourist destinations.

Think of it like learning the "secret password" that unlocks helpful information from shopkeepers—once you ask the right question, they'll tell you everything you need to know.

Essential Shopping Phrases

Beyond asking the price, other useful phrases include "**I would like this, please**" (Je voudrais ceci, s'il vous plaît in French) and "**Do you have this in a different size?**" (Avez-vous cela dans une autre taille?). You should also learn how to say "**thank you**" and "**excuse me**"—these simple words show respect and make shopkeepers happy to help you.

When paying, you need to understand the local **currency**. **Europe** uses the **euro (€)** in most countries, but **the UK** uses **pounds (£)**, and other countries have their own money. Exchange rates tell you how much foreign money is worth in your home currency. For example, one pound might be worth about **1.20 euros**, but this changes every day.

Think of currency exchange like trading football cards—the value of your cards depends on what other collectors want to trade for them, and that value changes over time.

Top Shopping Tips

Always carry a **translation app** on your phone as a backup—it's like having a friendly guide in your pocket. Point at something and let the app translate for you. Also, bring **enough cash** in the local currency, though most modern shops accept **contactless card payments** and **mobile payments** too.

Finally, remember that shopkeepers appreciate when visitors try to speak their language, even if you make mistakes. Being polite, patient, and showing genuine interest makes shopping abroad a wonderful cultural experience that you'll remember forever.