

Learning Town and Shop Words in Foreign Languages

KS2 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 9-12  3 min read

Why Learn Place Words?

When you visit another country or chat with someone who speaks a different language, you'll need to know the names of places around town. Learning these words helps you ask for directions, describe where you live, and understand stories about other people's neighbourhoods. It's like learning the alphabet of the world around you!

Think of it like learning the names of all your friends — once you know them, you can talk about them and find them whenever you need to.

Shops and Markets

Most towns have shops where people buy things. In **French**, a shop is called a **magasin**, while in **Spanish** it's a **tienda**, and in **German** it's a **Laden**. More specific shops have their own names: a **boulangerie** (bakery) in France sells fresh bread, a **panadería** in Spain does the same, and Germans visit a **Bäckerei**. A supermarket is a **supermarché** in French, **supermercado** in Spanish, and **Supermarkt** in German.

Parks and Green Spaces

Parks are wonderful places to play and relax. The word **parc** in French, **parque** in Spanish, and **Park** in German all mean the same thing. Many towns also have **jardins** (French gardens), **jardines** (Spanish gardens), and **Gärten** (German gardens). These are perfect places to spend time outdoors with family and friends.

Other Important Places

Towns have many other places worth knowing. A **mairie** (town hall) in France, **ayuntamiento** in Spain, and **Rathaus** in Germany is where local leaders work. Schools are **écoles** in French, **escuelas** in Spanish, and **Schulen** in German. Libraries are called **bibliothèques**, **bibliotecas**, and **Bibliotheken** in these three

languages. Hospitals are **hôpitals** (French), **hospitales** (Spanish), and **Krankenhäuser** (German).

Think of it like collecting trading cards — each language has its own set of place-name cards, but they all describe the same real places in the world.

Practising Place Words

The best way to learn these words is to practise saying them out loud and using them in sentences. Try describing your own town: "My town has a big **parc** and three **magasins**." Ask questions like "Where is the **école**?" Once you know these **10 to 15 essential place words**, you can start real conversations about towns and neighbourhoods in French, Spanish, or German!