

13 Family and friends

A Relatives*



“My father died when I was nine, and so my mother was a widow¹ with four young children. She remarried five years later, so now I have a stepfather. As he is not my real father, I call him by his first name, which is Dieter. I’ve got an elder² brother called Thomas and two younger sisters, Anya and Claudia, who are twins³. We’re a close family⁴.”

My mother is an only child⁵, but I’ve got two uncles on my father’s side. One is married with two children, and the other is married with three children, so altogether I have five cousins. I get on well with⁶ Uncle Rolf, and he always tells me I’m his favourite nephew. Of his nieces, I think he likes Anya best.

Recently my brother Thomas got married. His wife’s name is Sabine, so I now have a sister-in-law⁷ as well.”

* members of your family; *syn relations*

¹ a woman whose husband has died

² older

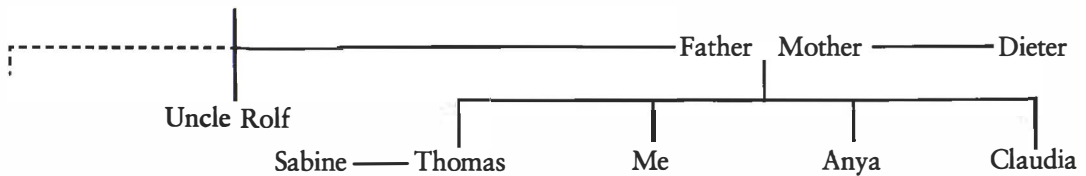
³ two children born to one mother at the same time

⁴ a family who like each other and stay together a lot

⁵ without brothers or sisters

⁶ have a good relationship with

⁷ (also mother/brother/son-in-law, etc.)



Common mistakes

It's more common and more natural to say 'Thomas's wife' (NOT ~~the wife of Thomas~~) or 'Anna's younger sister' (NOT ~~the younger sister of Anna~~).

B Friends

“My best friend is Florian, an old school friend¹. We got to know each other² when we were in the same class at school. We’ve been mates³ ever since⁴, and our friendship is very important to both of us. He spends a lot of time with my family, and his current⁵ girlfriend is actually one of Thomas’s ex-girlfriends. But we all get on really well.”

¹ someone you have known for a long time

² met and became friends

³ friends; *informal*

⁴ from that time until now

⁵ the one he has now



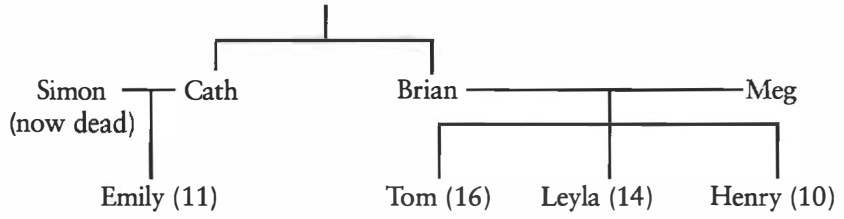
Florian

Language help

We use the prefix **ex-** for a relationship we had in the past but do not have now, e.g. *The children stay with my ex-husband at the weekend; I saw an ex-girlfriend of mine yesterday.*

Exercises

13.1 Look at the family tree, then complete the sentences below.



- 1 Simon died two years ago, so Cath is a widow .
- 2 Leyla is Cath's
- 3 Tom is Cath's
- 4 Cath is Meg's
- 5 Simon was Brian's
- 6 Tom is Leyla's brother.
- 7 Emily is Leyla's
- 8 Emily is an child.

13.2 Which words are being defined?

- 1 Your current boyfriend is the one that you have now.
- 2 means get married again.
- 3 are all the members of your family.
- 4 Your friend is the one you like more than any other.
- 5 An friend is someone you have known for a long time.
- 6 are two children born to one mother at the same time.
- 7 is an informal word for a friend.
- 8 is the noun when two people are friends.
- 9 Your is the man who is married to your mother but is not your father.

13.3 Complete the text.

“I was still going out with James when I met my husband, Ben. We ¹ got to know each other because we went to the same gym twice a week. We went out with each other for about 18 months, and we got ² three years ago, so ³ we’ve been a couple for almost five years. We’ve continued to go to the gym ever ⁴ we got married, and I still quite often see James when we’re there. It’s nice if you can still ⁵ with an ⁶-boyfriend or -girlfriend.”

13.4

Over to you

Answer the questions for you, then, if possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

- 1 Are you an only child? If not, do you have elder brothers or sisters?
- 2 Do you get on well with other members of your family?
- 3 Are you a close family?
- 4 Who was the last person in your family to get married? When?
- 5 Who's your best friend?
- 6 How long have you known him/her?
- 7 How did you get to know each other?

14 Growing up

A Ages and stages in the UK



Age	Stage
0	birth [the moment a baby is born]
Up to 12 months	a baby
12 months – 3 years old	a toddler
3–12 years old	a child: this period is your childhood
13–18 approximately	a teenager: during this period you are in your teens
18+	a n adult
40+ approximately	people are middle-aged [in the middle of their lives]
60 or 65	retirement [when people stop work; they are retired]
80+	old age (we usually describe people as elderly)

B Approximate ages

- I'm in my **early twenties**. [21–23]
- My parents are in **their mid-fifties**. [54–56]
- My grandmother is in **her late seventies**. [77–79]
- My grandfather is **nearly/almost eighty**. [he's probably 79]
- My English teacher's **approximately/roughly** thirty. [about 30 / more or less 30]

Common mistakes

We can say, **he's 30** or **he's 30 years old**. (NOT **he has 30** or **he's 30 years**)
 Also: a **30-year-old man** (NOT a **30-years-old man**)

C



Past and present

“My grandmother's name was Mary. She's **dead**¹ now. She died about ten years ago when I was in my **teens**, but I remember her well. She was **brought up**² on a farm in Wales, and her parents were very strict: as a teenager, they didn't **allow**³ her to listen to the radio or go to parties in the village. **In the end**⁴, she decided to leave home and get a job in Cardiff. **At first**⁵ it wasn't easy, but she **managed**⁶ to find work, and she also met the man who became her husband: my grandfather. My mother was born four years later. She had a very different childhood. She grew up in the city, she was **allowed** to go to parties, and when she was in her teens, her parents **let**⁷ her **stay out late**⁸. My mum is the same with me.”

- ¹ not living; *opp* alive
- ² looked after until you are an adult
- ³ give permission
- ⁴ finally, after a lot of time or thought
- ⁵ at the beginning
- ⁶ was able (but it was difficult)
- ⁷ allowed
- ⁸ not go home until late

Language help

Let and allow have the same meaning. Let is slightly more informal, and allow is often used in the passive.

My dad let me drive his car. I was allowed to drive my dad's car.

You're not allowed to smoke in that room. (NOT It's not-allowed to smoke in that room.)

Exercises

14.1 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Isabella is only six months old – she’s still a baby.....
- 2 Chan-Hee was 22 a few months ago, so he’s in his
- 3 Susan is 35, so she’s in her
- 4 Leyla will be 13 this year, so she’ll soon be a
- 5 Ron is 53 and his wife is 47, so they’re both
- 6 Joan is 80 this year, so she is quite
- 7 Michael was a bus driver for 40 years but he’s now
- 8 Ravi is 18 this year, so legally he becomes
- 9 The boys are 14 and 16, so they’re both in their
- 10 Holly is just over a year old and she’s starting to walk, so she’s a now.

14.2 Are the sentences true or false about Mary’s life on the opposite page? If a sentence is false, change it to make it true.

- 1 Mary was brought up in the city. False. Mary was brought up on a farm......
- 2 She grew up in Wales.
- 3 Her parents let her do what she wanted.
- 4 She wasn’t allowed to listen to the radio.
- 5 Life was easy when she went to Cardiff.
- 6 She couldn’t get a job in Cardiff.

14.3 Rewrite the sentences without using the underlined words and phrases. Keep a similar meaning.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 My parents <u>are dead</u> now. | My parents <u>aren't alive now</u> |
| 2 It was hard but <u>finally</u> I did it. | It was hard but |
| 3 She’s <u>approximately</u> my age. | She’s |
| 4 They’re <u>almost</u> thirty now. | They’re |
| 5 <u>I had to do what</u> my parents <u>wanted</u> . | My parents were |
| 6 My parents <u>let me</u> stay up and watch TV. | I was |
| 7 My mum <u>looked after me</u> in Scotland. | I was |
| 8 I <u>was able to</u> pass my exams <u>but it wasn't easy</u> . | I |
| 9 I <u>didn't go home until</u> late. | I |
| 10 <u>I was allowed to</u> wear what I liked. | My parents |
| 11 I was happy <u>as a child</u> . | I had a happy |
| 12 My grandparents <u>don't work any more</u> . | My grandparents are |

14.4

Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

- 1 Where were you brought up?
- 2 What do you particularly remember about your childhood?
- 3 Were your parents strict? What weren't you allowed to do when you were a child?
- 4 How late were you allowed to stay out when you were a teenager?

15 Romance, marriage and divorce

A Romance

“I had my first **date**¹ when I was 16, and it was terrible. I took a girl to the cinema but she didn't like the film and looked bored all evening; it was a bad start. Then, when I was 17, I **went out with**² a girl for three months, but we **broke up**³ when she met a boy who was two years older than me, and had a car. My first **serious relationship**⁴ was when I went to university. I **got to know**⁵ Melanie because we were on the same course. At first we were just friends, then we started going out with each other, and after a few months we realised we were **in love**. We **got engaged**⁶ a **couple of**⁷ years after we left university and then ...”

¹ a planned romantic meeting

⁵ became friends with

² had a romantic relationship with

⁶ formally agreed to marry

³ the relationship ended

⁷ two, perhaps three

⁴ important romantic relationship



(bride)groom

B Marriage*

“... we **got married**¹ the following year. We didn't want a big **ceremony**², so we had the **wedding**³ in the local church near Melanie's home with just family and a few friends. Afterwards we had the **reception**⁴ in a small hotel nearby, and then went on our **honeymoon**⁵ to Greece.”

* the time when you are married

³ the ceremony when people get married

¹ became husband and wife

⁴ the wedding party

² an important public event

⁵ a holiday just after getting married



Common mistakes

She **got to know** Darren at university. (NOT She ~~knew~~ Darren at university.)

Now they plan to **get married**. (NOT They plan to get ~~marry~~; or They plan to ~~married~~.)

She's getting married **to** Darren next year. (NOT She's getting married ~~with~~ Darren next year.)

C Children

“Just over three years later Melanie **got pregnant**, and our first child, Cal, was born just two days after our fourth **wedding anniversary**¹. We had a big **celebration**².”

¹ a day that is exactly one or more years after an important event

² a time when you do something you enjoy because it is a special day



Language help

adjective	noun	verb	noun
engaged	engagement	celebrate	celebration
pregnant	pregnancy	marry	marriage

D Divorce*

“Things started to **go wrong**¹ when I got a job as manager of a sportswear company. I was working six days a week and I had to do a lot of travelling. It **was** difficult for Melanie as well. She was working during the week, then at weekends she was often **alone / on her own**² with two young **children**. I felt I couldn't **give up**³ my job, and in the end Melanie decided to **leave me**⁴. The following year we **got divorced**⁵.”

* when a marriage officially ends

¹ become a problem

² without other people

³ stop doing

⁴ stop living with me

⁵ the marriage officially ended

Exercises

15.1 Put the events in a logical order.

- I went out with Simon.
- We got married.
- I got pregnant three months later.
- We got engaged.
- I got to know Simon.
- Our son was born just after our first anniversary.
- We went on our honeymoon.
- I met Simon at a party.
- We had a big reception.

15.2 Which words are being defined?

- 1 The big party you have after the wedding. *reception*.....
- 2 A romantic meeting you plan before it happens.
- 3 The period of time when you are married.
- 4 How you describe a woman who is going to have a baby.
- 5 The day that is exactly one year, or a number of years, after an important event.
- 6 The name given to the woman and man on their wedding day. and
.....
- 7 Stop doing a job or activity. something up

15.3 Complete the dialogues.

- 1 A: When did they get *engaged*..... ?
B: Last week. They plan to get married in a of years.
- 2 A: Where did they meet?
B: I think he got her at university.
A: And now they're married?
B: Yes, the was last week.
- 3 A: Is it going to be a big wedding?
B: No, they're having a small in the village church.
A: And what about the reception?
B: They're having a reception but no They're going straight back to work.
- 4 A: So, it's all over.
B: Yes. Lily him and moved out last month.
A: Oh dear. Have they had problems for a long time?
B: I think it all started to go when they moved to Woodbridge.
A: And what about Oliver? Is he alone now?
B: Yes, completely on He doesn't want any new relationships yet.
A: But the marriage is definitely over?
B: Yes, I'm afraid they're getting

15.4

Over to you

Answer the questions for you, then, if possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

- 1 Can you remember your first date? (When, and who with?)
- 2 Can you remember your first serious relationship? (Who was it with? Did you break up, or are you still with the same person?)
- 3 Whose was the last wedding you went to?
- 4 What was the last big celebration (other than a wedding) that you went to?

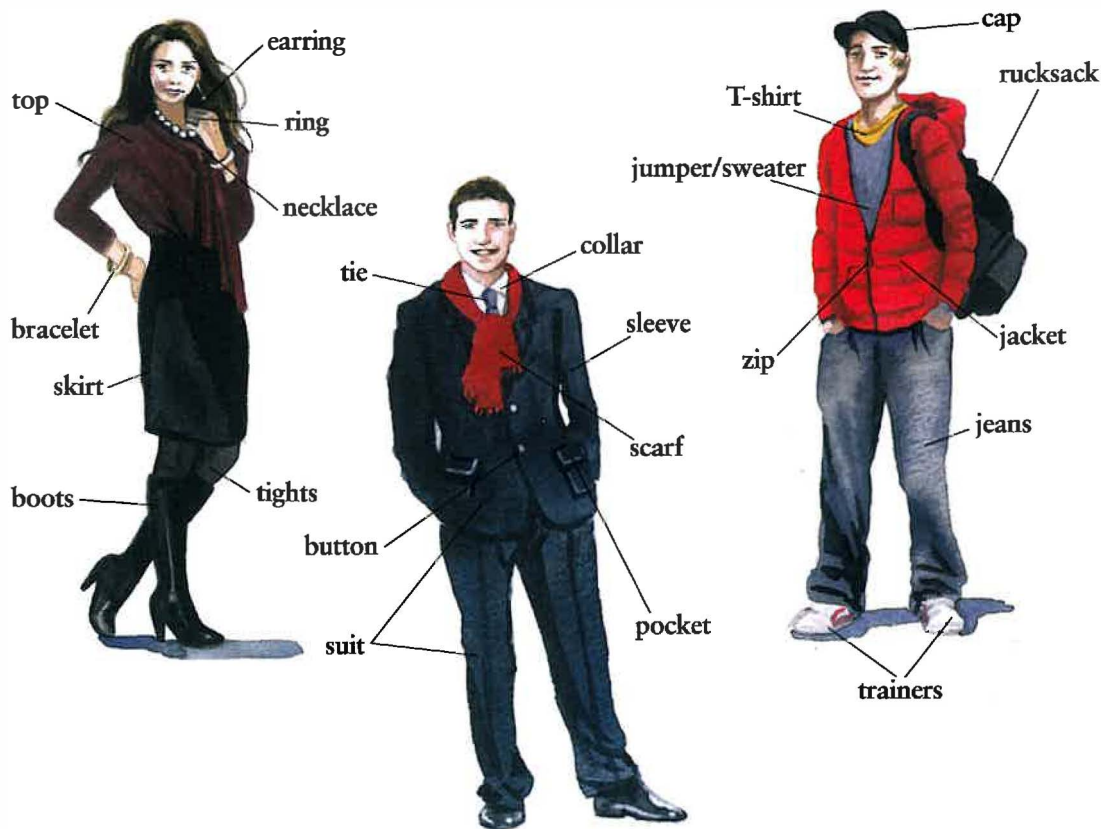
22 Clothes

A Smart, stylish and casual

I think the woman looks **stylish**. [wearing nice clothes and looking attractive; also well-dressed]

The man is **smartly dressed**. [clean and tidy and suitable for formal situations]

The boy's clothes are more **casual**. [comfortable and suitable for informal situations]



B Verbs and phrases used with clothes

As soon as I get up, I have a shower and get dressed [put on my clothes]. I don't eat breakfast.

When I get home from work, I usually change into a pair of jeans.

I prefer jackets with a zip; it's easier to **undo** a zip [open a zip, buttons, etc.] and it's also much quicker to **do it up**.

I have to wear a suit and tie to work, but I usually **take off** my tie before lunchtime. [remove it; *opp* put something on]

I think I look good in black because dark colours **suit** me. [I look good in dark colours; *opp* bright colours]

Common mistakes

I like clothes. (NOT I like eleth or cloths.)

I like your new trousers. (NOT I like your new trouser.)

Exercises

22.1 Put the words into the correct columns.

boots earrings button top ring jumper bracelet scarf
necklace zip pocket cap sleeve tights collar

items of clothing	jewellery	parts of clothing
boots		

22.2 Find five more things that are different in the pictures.

- 1 The first woman is wearing a ring; the second isn't.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6



22.3 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Why don't you take off..... your coat?
- 2 Anna looks really nice purple.
- 3 He was very smartly- this morning. He had his best suit on.
- 4 It took me ages to put these boots.
- 5 You should wear bright colours more often; they you.
- 6 Hiroko couldn't do the zip on her jacket.
- 7 I changed a pair of jeans as soon as I got home.
- 8 I took my tie off and the top button of my shirt.
- 9 My brother takes his books to school in a He says it's easier to carry them on his back.
- 10 I had a quick shower, got, then joined the others for breakfast.

22.4

Over to you

Women, answer these questions.

- 1 What jewellery do you usually wear?
- 2 Which colours suit you best?
- 3 Do you prefer smart or casual clothes?
- 4 Do you generally look quite stylish?
- 5 Do you often wear a hat or a cap?
- 6 Do you often wear T-shirts or trainers?

Men, answer these questions.

- How often do you wear a suit?
- How often do you wear a tie?
- Do you usually do up the top button of your shirt?
- Do you often change into jeans after school or work?
- Do you often wear a hat or a cap?
- Do you often wear T-shirts or trainers?

23 Fashion and buying clothes

A Fashion

FASHION: Which are you?

- I usually **shop**¹ with a friend.
- I always **try on clothes**² before I buy them.
- I sometimes buy clothes that don't **suit me**³, just because they're **fashionable**⁴.
- If I buy trousers or a skirt, I buy a shirt or top to **go with**⁵ it at the same time.
- My **wardrobe**⁶ is full of clothes that I buy and hardly ever wear.
- I like to buy **designer labels**⁷, even though they're more expensive.
- I like wearing fashionable clothes, but the price has to be **reasonable**⁸.
- I never buy clothes just because they're **in fashion**⁹.
- I like to **dress in**¹⁰ clothes that are casual but still look quite fashionable.
- I'm always happy with what I've **got on**¹¹.

- ¹ buy things in shops
- ² put clothes on in a shop to see what they are like
- ³ look good on me
- ⁴ popular at that particular time
- ⁵ look good together
- ⁶ a large cupboard for keeping clothes in
- ⁷ clothes made by famous designers, e.g. Versace, Dolce & Gabbana
- ⁸ not expensive
- ⁹ fashionable
- ¹⁰ wear a particular type, style or colour of clothes
- ¹¹ am wearing

Language help

If two things **match**, they are a similar colour or type. If two things **go with** each other, they look good together.

*Catherine's bag **matches** her coat. Catherine's bag **goes with** her coat.*

If something **suits** you, it looks good on you. If something **fits** you, it is the right size.

B In a clothes shop

A **shop assistant** [a person who works in a shop] is **servicing** different customers [helping them to buy things].

- SHOP ASSISTANT: Can I help you?
CUSTOMER 1: No, I'm **being served**, thanks. [another shop assistant is already helping me]
- SHOP ASSISTANT: Do you need any help?
CUSTOMER 2: Yes, I've just tried on this jacket in a **size 12**, and it didn't really **fit me**; it's a bit **tight**. [too small around the body; *opp* loose/big] Have you got it in a bigger size?
- SHOP ASSISTANT: We have got a size 14, but not in pink, I'm afraid.
CUSTOMER 2: Oh, **that's a shame**. [that is disappointing; *syn* that's a pity] OK. I'll **leave it**, thanks. [I have decided not to buy it; *opp* I'll take it/them]
- SHOP ASSISTANT: OK. I'm sorry about that. ... Can I help you?
CUSTOMER 3: Yes, I'm **looking for** a skirt and this looks nice. [I want to find a skirt] Can I try it on?
- SHOP ASSISTANT: Yes, of course. The **changing rooms** are down there. [the place where you can try on clothes]



Exercises

23.1 Are these pairs similar in meaning or different in meaning?

- 1 *in fashion* and *fashionable* *similar*
- 2 *wardrobe* and *changing room*
- 3 *I'll take it* and *I'll leave it*
- 4 *match something* and *go with something*
- 5 *tight* and *loose*
- 6 *fit someone* and *suit someone*
- 7 *that's a shame* and *that's a pity*

23.2 Rewrite the sentences starting with the words given. Keep a similar meaning.

- 1 I often shop with my mother. I often go *shopping with my mother*
- 2 These watches are fashionable. These watches are in
- 3 Your top matches your skirt. Your top goes
- 4 I like what I'm wearing. I like what I've
- 5 Those trousers suit you. Those trousers look
- 6 Are they the right size? Do they ?
- 7 I'd like it to be quite loose. I don't want it to be too
- 8 She always wears black. She always in black.

23.3 Which words are being defined?

- 1 be the right size *fit*
- 2 not cheap, but not expensive
- 3 a large cupboard for keeping clothes in
- 4 popular with people at a particular time
- 5 the place where you try on clothes in a shop
- 6 Armani and Calvin Klein are examples of this
- 7 a person who works in a shop
- 8 look after customers and help them to buy things

23.4 Complete the dialogues.

- SHOP ASSISTANT: Can I help you?
CUSTOMER 1: I'm ¹ *looking for* a top. This one's quite nice. I think I'll
² it on.
- SHOP ASSISTANT: Of course. The ³ room is just over there.
- SHOP ASSISTANT: Do you need any help?
CUSTOMER 2: No, I'm being ⁴ , thanks.
- SHOP ASSISTANT: How was the top?
CUSTOMER 1: I'm afraid it didn't ⁵ very well. It was a bit
⁶ under the arms.
- SHOP ASSISTANT: Oh, that's a ⁷ Would you like a bigger size?
CUSTOMER 1: No, I don't think so. In actual fact, it wasn't just the ⁸
I don't think it ⁹ me, actually. I think it's really for a
younger person. I'll ¹⁰ it, thanks.

23.5

Over to you

Look at the text at the top of the opposite page again. Which statements are true for you?
If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

24 Shopping

A In a supermarket



How do supermarkets **make us**¹ spend more money?

They put **fresh**² bread, as it smells lovely, near the **entrance**³ to make us feel hungry – and hungry shoppers spend more. They also rearrange things and put them in different places; this makes us spend more time in the store and that means spending more money. They put sweets and chocolate near the checkout, so it is easy to add bars of chocolate to our basket or trolley while we are waiting in the **queue**⁴. And they put the most expensive **items**⁵ on the middle shelves where you are more **likely**⁶ to see them. And be careful of **special offers**⁷, e.g. three for the price of two. People often buy more than they need and **throw away** half of it.

¹ cause us to do or be something, e.g. *I don't like rain; it makes me depressed.*

² just made/cooked

³ the place where you go into a building

⁴ a line of people who are waiting for something

⁵ an *item* is a single thing

⁶ If you are likely to do something, you will probably do it.

⁷ cheaper prices than normal

B Shopping centres and street markets

Some people like modern **shopping centres**¹ because everything is **under one roof**² and it is **convenient**³. There's a **wide range**⁴ of shops, and if there is anything wrong with something you buy, the shop will **replace**⁵ it, or give you a **refund**⁶.



Other people prefer going to **street markets** because they like the **atmosphere**⁷ you get from the different **stalls**. Food and clothes are also usually cheaper in street markets. Sometimes you can try to agree a lower price for something you buy in a street market; we call this **haggling**. Of course, if you don't like what you buy in a street market, you can't normally take it back and get a refund.

¹ large covered shopping areas

² in one place

³ practical and easy to use

⁴ different things of the same type

⁵ exchange it for another one

⁶ money that is paid back to you when you return something

⁷ the feeling in a place or situation

Exercises

24.1 True or false? If a sentence is false, change it to make it true.

1 If you have a lot of things to buy, you need a basket.

False. If you have a lot of things to buy, you need a trolley.

2 Supermarkets arrange things to make us spend more money.

3 The checkout is where you pay for things.

4 Expensive items are on the top shelves.

5 If something is fresh, it has just been made.

6 There are often lovely smells near the entrance.

7 Sweets are often near the checkout.

8 It's always a good idea to buy things on special offer.

24.2 Mark the main stress on these words. Use the index to help you.

'atmosphere convenient checkout entrance a refund replace item

24.3 Are these statements true of shopping centres, street markets, or both?

1 They are usually quite modern. *shopping centres*

2 Everything is under one roof.

3 You buy things from stalls.

4 You can haggle.

5 You can normally get refunds.

6 They can be very convenient.

24.4 Complete the sentences.

1 I took the shoes back to the shop, but they wouldn't give me a *refund*.

2 It me angry when shops refuse to give you a refund or things.

3 I often buy bananas but forget to eat them, and then I have to them away.

4 When I got to the **checkout**, there was a **long** of people waiting.

5 There's a special on melons – buy one, get one free!

6 The vegetables are near the, where we came in.

7 I like that supermarket because they have a wide of meat and cheese.

8 In my local street market, there's just a really nice : it's very busy, but everyone is friendly and there's lots of colour.

9 I am more to buy something if it's a special offer, because it seems cheaper.

24.5

Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, ask someone else the same questions.

1 How often do you shop in supermarkets? What do you think of them?

2 How often do you go to shopping centres? Do you like them?

3 How often do you go to street markets? Do you like them?

4 Do you haggle for things when you're shopping?

5 Have you ever asked for a refund?