Shopping and Money

Shops, coins and prices, bargains, banks and money verbs, and the words of retail, finance and evidence, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 21

How much is it? · a real bargain · make ends meet

Shops *A1–A2*

supermarket	baker's
butcher's	greengrocer's
chemist's	newsagent's
post office	bookshop
shoe shop	clothes shop
toy shop	market
till	bag

I buy bread at the baker's (= the baker's shop)

Money *A1–A2*

pound (£)	penny, pence (p)
euro (€)	cent
coin	note
money	cash
card	change
price	receipt
purse	wallet

£3.50 = three pounds fifty · 75p = seventy-five pence

Shopping and banks *B1–B2*

Shopping: a bargain, a discount, the sales, half price, buy one get one free, in stock / out of stock

After you buy: a refund, an exchange, a receipt, a guarantee, delivery

Phrasal verbs: spend on, save up, pay back, run out of, splash out, shop around

Banks: an account, a cash machine (ATM), a PIN, contactless, a debit card, a credit card, interest

UK / US: queue / line · till / register · note / bill · shop / store

*I **saved up** for months, then **splashed out on** a coat in **the sales**: a real **bargain**.*

lend = give · borrow = take: Can I borrow £5?

Precise and figurative *C1–C2*

Trade: consumer, retailer, wholesale, mark-up, profit margin

Finance: inflation, interest rate, overdraft, debt, in the red / in the black

Habits: impulse buying, consumerism, a false economy · frugal, thrifty, extravagant, penny-pinching

Idioms: break the bank, a rip-off, pay through the nose, money doesn't grow on trees, save for a rainy day, money talks

Evidence: the left-digit effect, a plateau, a correlation, an adversarial collaboration

*Cheap boots that leak are **a false economy**; a **thrifty** buyer pays once.*

economic = about the economy · economical = cheap to run

At the till

- *How much is this? How much are these?*
- *Can I pay by card? / I'll pay in cash.*
- *Here's your change. Do you want a bag?*
- *Can I have a receipt, please?*

Common mistakes

- ~~a lot of moneys~~ → a lot of **money**
- ~~Can you borrow me £5?~~ → Can you **lend** me £5?
- ~~three pounds and fifty~~ → **three pounds fifty**
- *library* = biblioteca · *bookshop* = librería

Words with a past

- **cheap**: Old English *cēap*, trade, a market
- **discount**: Latin, to count off
- **pound**: Latin *pondo*, by weight; £ = *libra*
- **retail**: Old French, to cut into pieces

My new words

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