

Dialogue 5: Shopping

This conversation is occurring between customers and retail clerks in a mall.

Customer 1: I am so glad you wanted to go shopping today. I have been studying so much lately and I have been dying to do something fun!

Customer 2: Yeah me too! Lately I have been going nuts writing essays in my dorm.

Customer 1: Are you looking for anything in particular at the mall?

Customer 2: No not really, how about you?

Customer 1: I need to get a new shirt because I have a job interview next week.

Customer 2: OK, let's go to 'Clothes 4 U'.

Customer 1: Sounds good.

Store 1 – Clothes 4 U

Clerk: Hi, can I help you find something?

Customer 1: No thanks, we're just looking.

Clerk: Alright...did you know we have a sale this week? If you buy one shirt you get another one free.

Customer 2: OK, thanks for letting us know.

(The clerk then follows the customers around the shop and keeps asking them questions)

Clerk: Do you know what colour of shirt you want?

Customer 1: No, I'm not really sure yet.

Clerk: How about this one?

Customer 1: That one is not really my style.

Clerk: How about this one?

Customer 2: We're just browsing. We'll let you know if we need anything.

Clerk: How about this one?

Customer 1 (says quietly to Customer 2): Let's get out of here! This clerk is way too pushy!

Store 2 – World of Shirts

Customer 1: Let's try this store.

Customer 2: OK, anything is better than that last store!

Clerk: Hi there, welcome to 'World of Shirts'! Let me know if you need anything.

Customer 1: There are a lot of nice shirts here!

Customer 2: You should choose five shirts and then try them on to see which one you like the best.

Customer 1: OK

(Customer 1 chooses 5 shirts and starts walking to the change rooms)

Clerk: Looks like you're all set. Let me open up a change room for you.

Customer 1: Great, thanks.

Clerk: No problem.

(Customer 1 goes into to the change room and starts trying on the shirts. Customer 2 waits outside the change room)

Customer 1: Do you like this one?

Customer 2: Nope, it's too baggy and looks unprofessional.

(next shirt 2)

Customer 1: Do you like this one?

Customer 2: It's too tight. It looks like something you would wear clubbing.

(next shirt 3)

Customer 1: How about this one?

Customer 2: Oh no! The colour is horrible; it is giving me a headache! Try another one!

(next shirt 4)

Customer 1: What do you think of this one?

Customer 2: Yeah, it's perfect...if you were 90 years old! It looks like something my grandma would wear!

(next shirt 5)

Customer 1: OK...this is the last one. What do you think?

Customer 2: That's it! It's professional and modern at the same time!

Clerk: I agree that one looks great. Let's go to the cash and I'll ring it up for you.

Customer 1: Sounds good, thanks.

(Customer 1 and Customer 2 start walking to the cash together)

Customer 2: There that wasn't so hard, was it?

Customer 1: I think that was harder than studying for exams! I'm beat!

Sentence/Vocabulary Explanations

1) I have been dying to (do something)

This means you have really wanted to do something for a long time.

Example: "I have been dying to try that new restaurant and this Friday I am finally going to go!"

2) Not really (someone's) style

If something is not your style it means that it is something you don't usually wear or like to do.

Example: "Shopping isn't really my style; I prefer to go hiking in my spare time."

3) Pushy

If someone is 'pushy' it means that they are trying to make you do something you don't want to do.

Example: "I don't like shopping there because the clerk is way too pushy!"

4) All set

This is slang that means 'ready'.

Example: "I packed my bags and now I'm all set to go on my trip."

5) Cash

This is slang and it means 'cash register' (the place you pay at a store)

Example: "They always sell chocolate bars near the cash at the grocery store."

6) Ring it up

This means to input a price into the cash register so that the customer can pay.

Example: "The cashier rang up the items and the total was 1000NT."

7) To be 'beat'

This means to be very tired.

Example: "I'm beat tonight, let's just rent a movie and stay home".

Common Mistakes

✘ Taipei has a lot of department stores.

😊 Taipei has a lot of malls.

In English a department store refers to one single store that has many items, whereas a mall is a building that has many different stores inside.

✘ I really like to go to shopping.

😊 I really like to shop.

😊 I really like shopping.

Remember that when you say 'to' the following verb should be in the infinitive form, not the continuous form.