

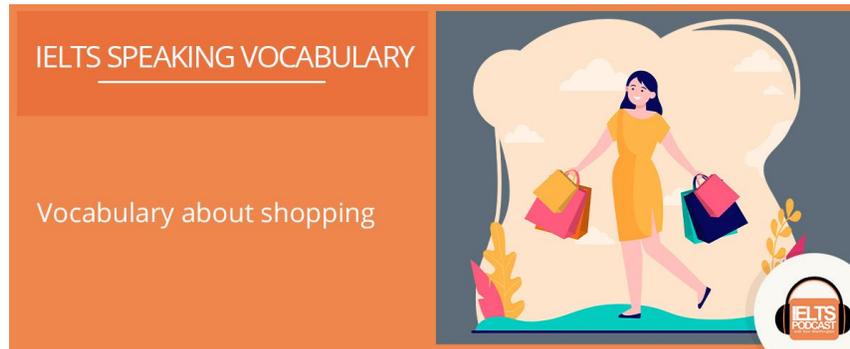
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Female Voice: You are now listening to the IELTS Podcast. Learn from tutors and ex-examiners who are masters of IELTS preparation. Your host, Ben Worthington.

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Ben: IELTS Speaking vocabulary for fashion and shopping. Hello there IELTS students. In this tutorial, we are looking at IELTS Speaking Parts 1, 2, and 3. We will hear some sample questions and some model answers. You will also get a list of vocabulary terms that you can use in the exam. And this type of vocabulary is higher-level vocabulary and it's just useful for your lexical resource score. You can give the examiner confidence that you know what you're talking about.

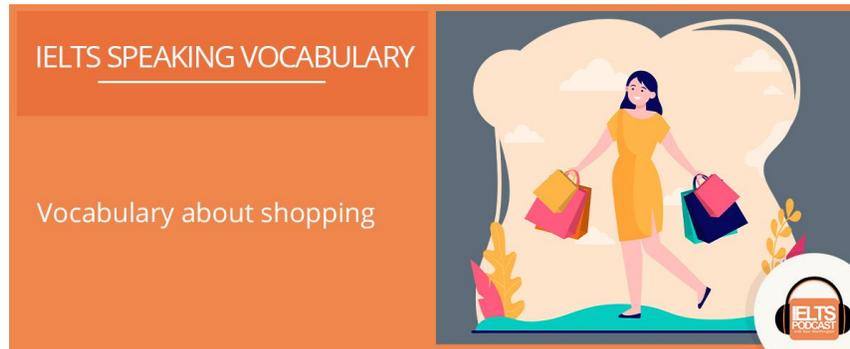
And we all know that just with this list you're obviously not going to get a band 9. You do need to be aware of the other criteria such as accuracy, fluency, pronunciation, and all the other marking criteria the examiner is going to use. However, vocabulary is one of the easiest ways to



boost your score quickly because you can get the list, you can start incorporating it, and it's much easier to introduce new vocabulary into your speaking than it is to use higher-level function grammar structures which might take a while to get correct. So, if you're looking for a quick improvement and you don't have that much time to prepare, then vocabulary is-- I hate the term-- but it could be a little bit of a shortcut.

Now, as I said, we're looking at vocabulary for fashion and shopping. Now, although this may not be as frequent a topic as, for example, social media or the environment, it's still worth looking at for two reasons. One, perhaps you're not a massive fan of fashion and shopping, so therefore it could be a blind spot for your vocabulary and you might find that when you try to answer these questions, you just don't have vocabulary needed or that it's a little bit rusty and needs to be sort of like dusted down, polished up-- it just needs to be refreshed.

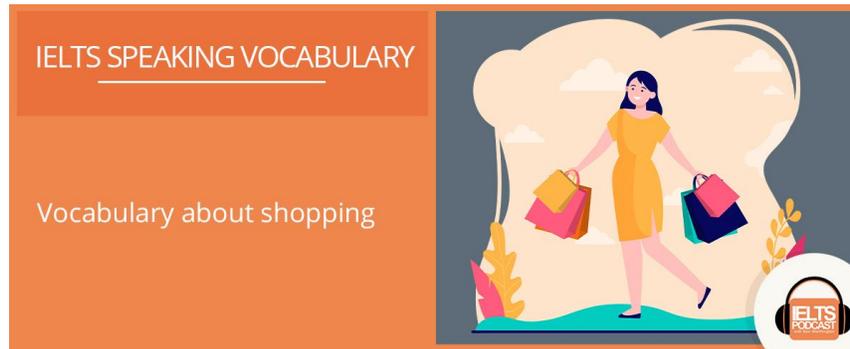
Secondly, you may love fashion and shopping in which case-- we get the typical question what do you like to do in your free time and if your free time is going shopping and being very



conscious of what you wear and being very conscious of all the fashion trends and whatnot, then having the vocabulary to explain your passion eloquently will greatly help you.

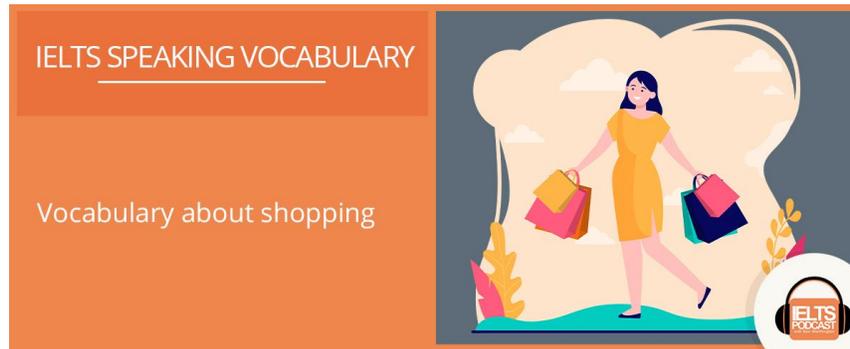
So, as I said, we will hear some sample questions and model answers. Let's go. Do you enjoy shopping? I do enjoy shopping perhaps more than I should. My friends say that I am something of a clothes horse. I like to be well put together, but I typically wait for the sales so that I can pick up what I want at a bargain price.

Okay. Straightforward answer. A couple of sentences. Nothing overly complex. This is Part 1. We're getting calm. We're getting familiar with the accent of the examiner and the main aim is to get the student-- get you comfortable with the environment so that you can relax and you can show the examiner your natural level of English i.e. not exam conditions level of English because we all know that can take a turn when the nerves and the environment and all the tension and it can start negatively affecting you. So, this is why the IELTS exam has Part 1 to basically put you the student at ease so that you have the opportunity to show your real level of English.



Now, let's have a look at the vocabulary used in that last question. We've got clothes horse. Clothes horse; lovely word. I know a lot of non-native English speakers struggle with the word clothes, but anyway the pronunciation of the word clothes. Anyway, clothes horse typically means when you take your clothes out of the washer and you put them on a frame. That's a clothes horse. Here the student has used it in a way to say that friends call him a clothes horse because he's got a lot of clothes, okay?

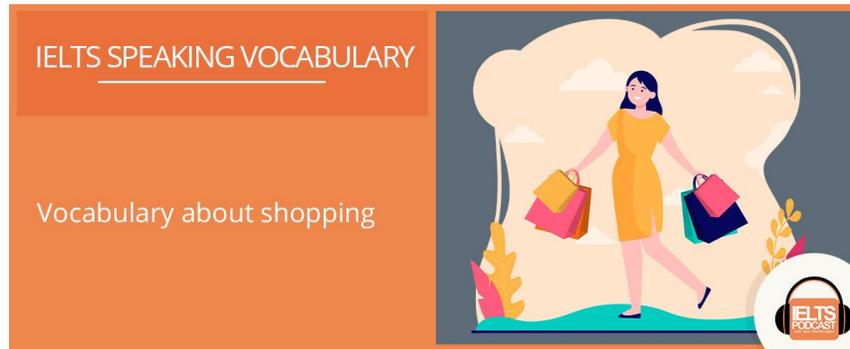
Also, we've got the collocation well put together means a good dresser. Well-dressed, not just throwing on any random clothes that they can find and then also talking about-- he said pick up. It's another word for purchase. So, we've got a phrasal verb there. It's not a bad answer, but as I said, we don't need to start going in and giving examples, anecdotes, comparisons, and anything like that. Part 1: get comfortable, answer, smile, sit up straight, and just get familiar with what's happening.



Question 2: What things do you like shopping for? Like many women my age, I enjoy shopping for clothes and accessories. I try to be up on the latest trends. So first, I scan my social media feed for what's in fashion and I'll try to replicate the looks with the lower priced items I buy at a fraction of the cost of what influencers pay.

Very interesting. Okay. So, there are lots of vocabulary. Let's work backwards. A fraction of the cost. That basically means much cheaper than standard prices in this case. Trends. The latest trends. Okay. I was going to say I won't embarrass myself, but I remember when skinny jeans became trendy and I guess nowadays, it's not the latest trend, but to be up on the latest trends means you can spot what is happening. I guess now it's more like the baggy jeans coming back into fashion. So, that could be an example of the latest trend. I think I just embarrassed myself there with my fashion knowledge.

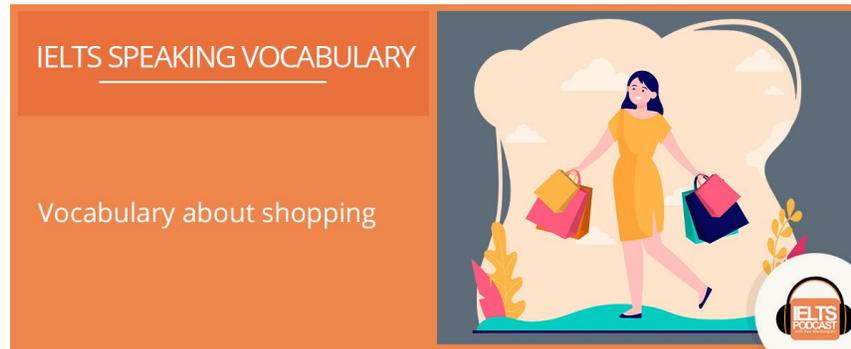
Anyway, some more vocabulary. Clothes and accessories. Almost a collocation there. I enjoy shopping for clothes and accessories. Also, we've got that very straightforward structure. I enjoy



+ gerund. I love + gerund. I hate shopping. I love shopping. I despise shopping. Quite a straightforward structure and easy to use especially useful for Part 1 actually.

Question 3: Do you prefer to shop alone or with other people? Sonja's answer. If I have to buy something for an important function, then I typically bring my mother with me because she has a great eye for clothes. She knows what cut and style suits me. However, if I just want to pass the time then I prefer going alone especially in the morning when the shops are less crowded. I like inspecting the clothes racks or shoe displays.

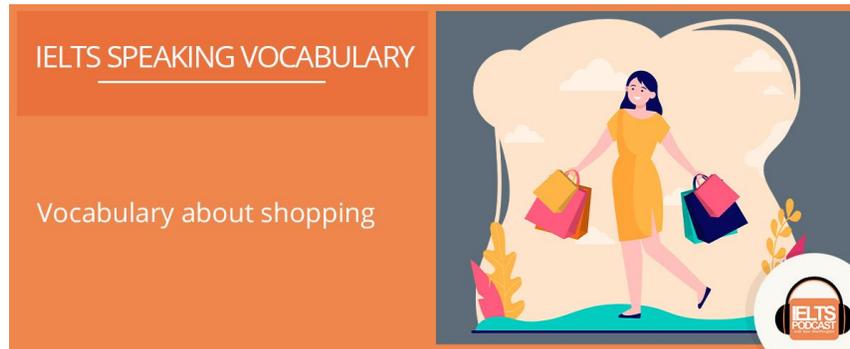
Great answer there. Great answer. If I have to buy something... Start with a conditional there. If I have to buy, so a hypothetical. If I have to buy something for an important function, I typically bring my mother with me because she has a great eye for clothes. So, even though there's a tiny little anecdote there, it's natural and the question kind of implied it. It invited a small tiny anecdote or a reference even.



And then the vocabulary there: great eye for clothes, cut and style, the shops are less crowded. So, again-- and then we've also got clothes racks or shoe displays. So, wonderful little answer there. Very competent student.

IELTS Speaking Part 2 sample cue card. Describe a shop you like going to, where the shop is, what things it sells, how often you go there, and why you like shopping there. Okay. Let's go. This is Samantha's answer. So, I'll just give you the cue card again. Describe a shop you like going to and you should say where the shop is, what things it sells, how often you go there, and why you like shopping there.

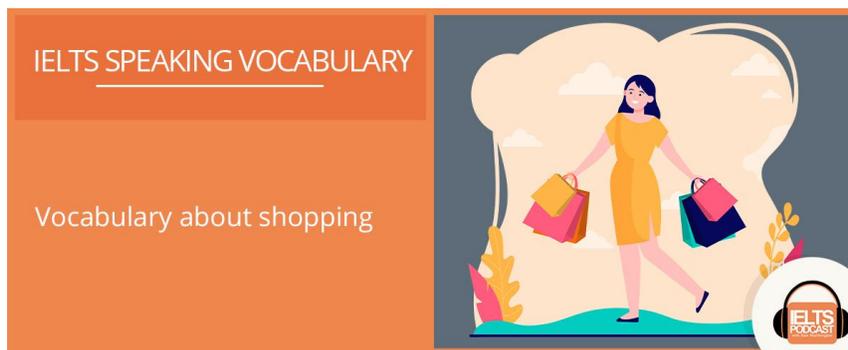
Now, as I've said on previous tutorials, it's really advisable for you to write out your answer on pen and paper. If you don't have time-- I mean obviously, we can't do this in the exam, but as a preparation exercise while you're at home, maybe write out your answer, find the blind spots in your vocabulary, try and write out examples of what you would want to say.



And this way, you can structure it better. You've got the chance to organize it and it's going to be much clearer in your mind as opposed to going back and trying to fetch that dusty memory from the back of your head about that one time you went shopping with your uncle. And then you're missing the vocabulary. It's not fresh in your mind and even then you've got to transform that into English.

So, if you've done all this previously or a few days before or a week before the exam, it's going to be much readily available and it's going to come out much more fluently.

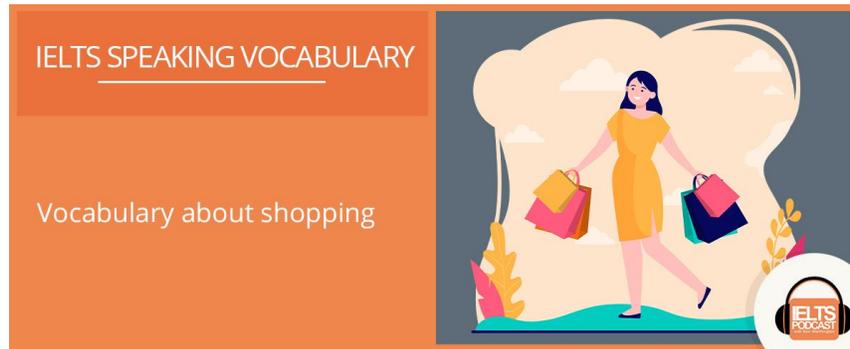
Samantha's answer: The shop I like going to is one that I don't visit very often as it is extremely expensive, but whenever I've gone, I've enjoyed the experience very much. The shop is in the center of the city in a beautiful neoclassical building with a spiral staircase. We'll come back to this point because I mentioned a very useful technique there which I think you'll be interested in hearing.



Carrying on with the answer. There are large velvet sofas where you can rest while you are served. When you walk through the double doors, a shop assistant greets you and offers coffee and tea. They are very friendly and really try to get to know the customer. Usually, I would find this level of attention from a shop person irritating, but here, they do it in such a way that you feel they are really trying to accommodate you.

The shop sells luxury goods from high-end designers. Many people feel their items are overpriced, but I guess there is a market for these goods. As I said, I don't go there often. It is out of my price range, but I did go when my brother was getting married to look for shoes. The selection and quality of their goods are incomparable from over-the-top avant-garde designer items to classics that can become family heirlooms.

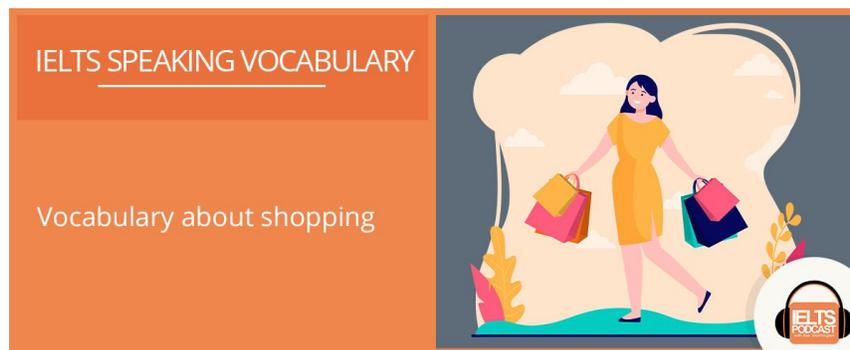
So, that's the combination of factors: the star ambience, the unparalleled customer service, and of course, the top-notch products that make this a store I really enjoy shopping at. I hope that one day I will be able to afford to shop there on a regular basis.



Now, that is easily a band 9. That's an incredibly good answer. The level of vocabulary there was just incredible. It would impress a native English speaker there. We've got neoclassical building with a spiral staircase. Now, you do not hear that in everyday English. So, you know that if a student is using that level of vocabulary, it's like eyebrows raising vocabulary.

And the technique that I wanted to share was they painted a picture. The shop is in the center of the city in a beautiful neoclassical building with a spiral staircase. Now, I can see that building right in front of me and that shows the speaker definitely has some skills there. I can just envision it.

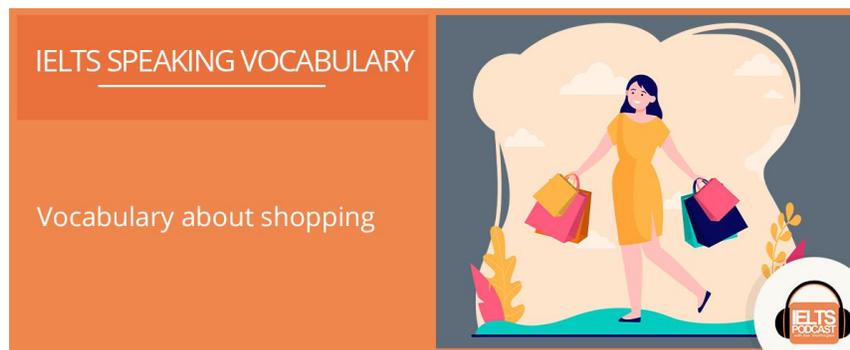
We don't obviously have to go into that much detail in most cases, but if you've got the vocabulary and you're confident about using it and you're confident because you wrote out your answers a few weeks before, then go ahead and use it and get that band 7, 8, or 9. So, that's the feature that I wanted to share with you.



The student has painted a picture, not overly in detail but we can see that building and then the student goes into more descriptions there-- into more detail. There are large velvet sofas where you can rest while you are served and then double doors, shop assistant greets you with coffee or tea.

Let's just have a look at the vocabulary. So, we've already mentioned about the building. Let's have a look at some shopping vocabulary. We've got shop assistant, level of attention, luxury goods, high-end designers, overpriced, avant-garde designers, incomparable price range, out of my price range-- lovely little collocation there as well.

And then when I thought it couldn't get any better, the student mentions the store ambience and the unparalleled customer service. Unparalleled means unmatched. It's not seen anywhere else. The unparalleled customer service and then top-notch products. Top-notch products; what my dad sells at his shop. Top-notch products are like extremely high quality products maybe Johnny

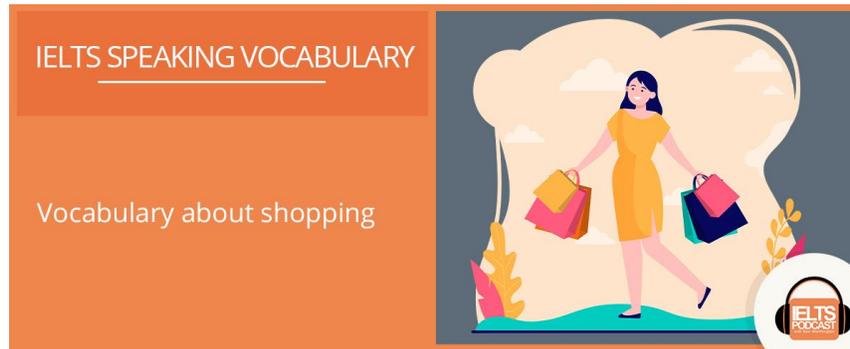


Walker Black Label whiskey, the Gucci, Prada, all this kind of stuff. Top-notch products, high quality products.

So, a very, very full competent detailed answer. Not one single grammar mistake. It all flows and all areas of the question are answered. We know where the shop is. We know what it sells. We know how often the student goes there and why the student likes shopping there. So, beautiful answer there. Lots of vocabulary, lots of detail, fantastic.

Let's have a look at some Part 3 sample questions and model answers. Some people think women should shop-- sorry. Some people think women shop more than men. Do you think this is true? Paulo's answer: Generally, there seems to be some truth in this, I know some men who like to keep up with the latest fashions and are capable of blowing enormous sums of money on it-- sneakers and jeans-- but on the whole, shopping seems to be a pastime more favored by women.

Firstly, I think society places more pressure on women to have an attractive modern appearance. So, to stay current, they have to update their look regularly. The fashion industry knows this of

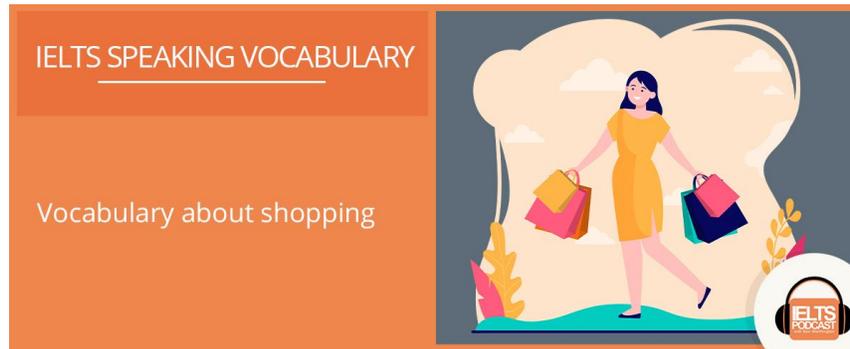


course and as a result, the selection women have to choose from is infinite. It's not like men's clothes where your choice of trouser color is black, gray, or blue.

Okay. Not a bad answer at all. Here, the student has used sneakers instead of trainers. We all know that in British English it's trainers and then in American English it's sneakers. I did hear one Canadian friend use the word runners which I thought was quite amusing. I'm not sure if it's still used in Canada, but anyway, trainers for British English, sneakers for American English.

So, this is a typical Part 3 question. Some people think women shop more than men. Do you think this is true? So, the examiner does not want to know-- is not really interested in shopping, not really interested in what you say or is not really interested in the content of your answer so much as the way you communicate it and how you communicate it and the words you use. So, just bear that in mind.

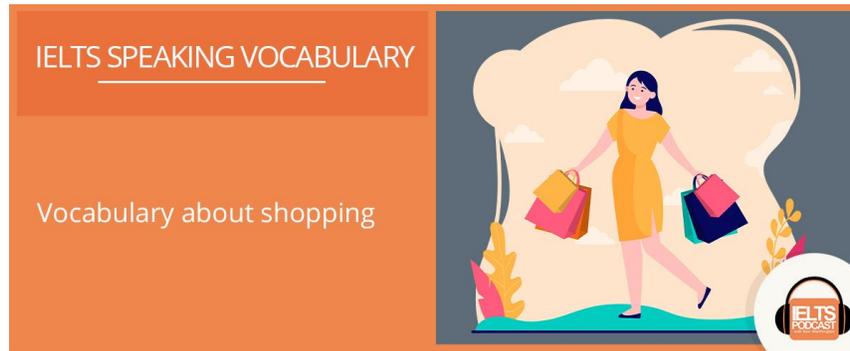
They're not trying to catch you out with some kind of sexist answer or some kind of equality answer or whatever. He just wants to know how you can express your opinion, if you can back



up that opinion, if you can do it in an accurate way using topic-specific vocabulary and use higher-level grammar structures. So, this answer was very adequate. It answers the question.

Again, leave your opinion at the door. Just give the examiner what they want to know. If you feel really highly opinionated about this, maybe dilate back a little bit and just focus on how you're communicating rather than what you're communicating just like we do with the writing task. This isn't an intelligence exam. This is the language exam. So, communication is the key.

Final question. How is shopping different now compared to how it was in the past? So, you've really got to use your tenses here and you can really use your comparative language as well. So, just keep an eye out and listen really carefully to the question. Okay, he's asking me about the past or the examiner is just asking about the future. So, I've got to really use now future tense-- future simple. Maybe I'll use the conditional as well to express a hypothetical situation. Also, I'm going to be using while or whereas just to compare the two different time frames. So, just try and keep this in mind.

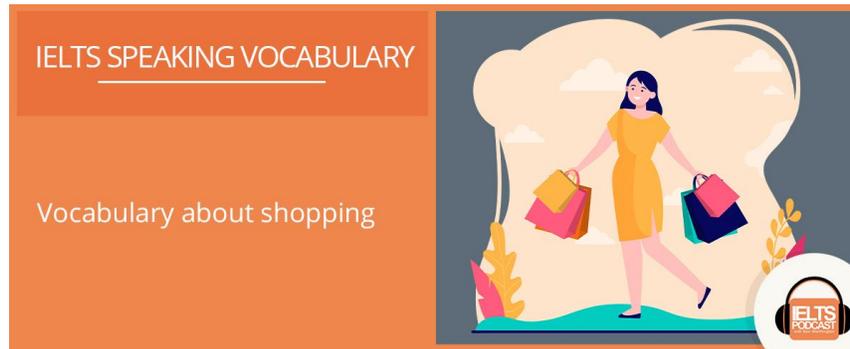


This is a great exercise by the way. While you are writing out your answers, just check have I used some comparisons here? Have I used conditionals? Have I used inversion? Have I used emphatic language?

Let's go. How is shopping different now compared to how it was in the past? Gunther's answer: Well, first of all, today we are spoilt for choice. Nice little collocation. Nice little expression spoilt for choice. Thanks to globalization, you no longer have to go to France to buy French goods, for example. In my city on the high street, we have brands from Spain, Italy, France, China, and Japan. This was unfathomable a few decades ago.

A new element in shopping is also e-shops. These have made the items of your choices accessible with the click of a button. Regardless of the location, the items arrive at your doorstep sometimes even on the same day.

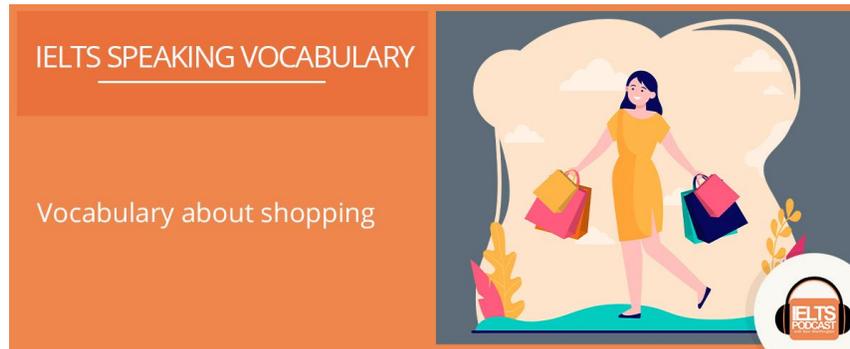
There we go. We've got the reference or the time frame. This was unfathomable a few decades ago. We're comparing the past there saying it was completely unthinkable a few decades ago then



going into the benefits, but we've got some decent vocabulary in this answer. We've got high street, brands, goods, spoiled for choice. Also here, the student used the term e-shops. Personally, I would use online shopping. I think it's more common. With the click of a button; a nice little expression there. With the click of a button. Regardless of the location, the items arrive at your doorstep sometimes even on the same day.

So, excellent answer there. Not so technical, but definitely lots of good quality vocabulary in there. And with that, we can finish.

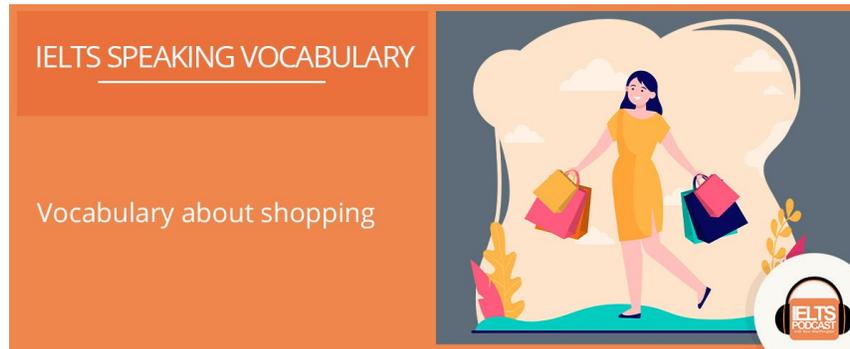
That's it from me today. If you need more help with your speaking, then do not hesitate to get in contact with us. We've got the Speaking Feedback Service which costs about \$9. You send us in a recording and we will listen to it. We'll give you some exercises to do. We'll give you some feedback and we'll say okay, you need to work on your pronunciation. You need to work on your cohesion in your answers or you need to work on your vocabulary. We can help you identify your weak spots so you can improve much quicker.



We've also got the \$5 Essay Corrections back. Those are flying off the shelves so to speak. They're very popular. We're selling an absolute ton because the price is ridiculously low and so we don't know how long we're going to keep that open. It just depends how long Daphne and Ellen can keep working on these.

So, if you do want some help and if you do want some inexpensive feedback on your essays, you can discover where you're going wrong, discover how to improve, then then go to ieltspodcast.com and at the moment as I said, we don't know for how much longer we've got the \$5 Essay Corrections. They are back and these are highly reduced price essay corrections, okay? We actually lose money on these, so that's why we can't keep it open all the time, but we do them.

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thinking about buying the course, then this can be sort of like an easy way to see if it's a good fit for your style of learning.

So, go over to IELTS Podcast, have a look at that offer and as I said, we don't know how long it's going to stay open for. So, if you're thinking about it, I'd move fast. That's it. Have a great day. Good luck with your Speaking exam and your IELTS exam in general and all the best.

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