Vocabulary:
Shopping for clothes

You can use this story to introduce some of the phrases the students need to express their opinions about clothing.

An amusing way to practice these phrases is to have some photos of patently unsuitable clothing—a bright orange parka? A jacket with sequins? Whatever photos you can find in magazines and catalogs. Then have the students discuss these in pairs, asking “Do you like this one?” or “This one looks good—what do you think?”

Some useful phrases:
- don’t like it/like it/like it a lot
- like this color/don’t like this color
- like this style/don’t like this style
- need a smaller size/need a larger size
- try it on
- doesn’t fit/fits well
- too big/too small
- too short/too long
- too heavy/too light
- too tight/too loose
- hand wash/machine wash/dry clean only

About the crossword puzzles

On the next three pages you’ll find puzzles about shopping for clothes. Each of the three puzzles uses exactly the same examples as clues, but different words from the sentences are missing.

In Level A, an easy word is missing from each sentence. In Level B, a key word is missing. And in Level C, a whole key phrase is missing.

Preparation

The students should first be at least somewhat familiar with the clothes shopping vocabulary above. (You can read the example story, discuss clothes shopping with the students and even do some role-playing.)

Make extra copies of each of the three puzzles, as students very often like to try the puzzle at more than one level. For example, students who start with Level A will become more familiar with the vocabulary as they do the puzzle, so that they can then attempt Level B or C.

Related puzzles

We’ve printed other puzzles about shopping. See Vol. 7 No. 5 (Jan/Feb 1998) for a multi-level crossword puzzle “All about shopping.” Another puzzle in Vol. 9, No. 1 (May/June 1999) deals with using money in daily life, and is called “Paying for things.”

Beginning students

For beginning level and literacy level students, you can find a picture store “Shopping for a Coat” in Action English Pictures published by Alta (1-800-ALTA/ESL, www.altaesl.com), ISBN 1-882483-71-5. The story shows a man trying on and buying a coat in 15 frames with no words. You can use the pictures to teach vocabulary and for telling and retelling a story.
Multi-level crossword puzzle:
Shopping for clothes

Across clues
2. This coat is much too ______. I need a smaller one.
3. This shirt is much too small. It ________ fit.
7. “This looks nice.” “Would you like to try it _____?”
   “Yes, sure.”
8. “I like this sweater. Is it _______ washable?” “No, but you can hand wash it.”
9. “How do you like this sweater?” “It’s perfect! It looks ______ on you. I think you should buy it.”
10. “Do you like this scarf?” “Yes, I like ____ a lot.”
11. “That jacket looks good. Are you going to buy it?”
   “No, it’s too light for winter. I need something ______.”
12. It’s too big. Can I try a ______ size?
13. “That’s a nice sweater.” “Yes, but it’s too heavy for summer. I need something ______.”
14. “I like this sweater. Is it ______ washable?” “No, but it’s dry ______ only.”
15. “Is that coat too big?” “No, it fits very ______. I’ll buy it.”
16. These pants are too ______. I need a larger size.

Down clues
1. “Here’s a red sweater.” “Oh, I ______ this color! It looks beautiful.”
3. I like this shirt, but I ______ like this color. Do you have it in blue?
4. Daughter: “I like this skirt!” Mother: “It’s too ______. You need a longer one.”
5. “Do you think this dress is ______ long?” “Yes, it is, but we can hem it up.”
6. It’s too small. Can I try a ________ size?
11. “I like this T-shirt. Is it machine washable?” “Of course, it’s cotton. You can ______ it in hot water.”
13. “How does this hat look?” “Sorry, I don’t ______ it.”
14. “I like this jacket. Is the fabric washable?” “No, it’s dry ______ only.”

Word list
big
clean
cooler
doesn’t
don’t

good

it
larger
like (2 times)
machine

on
short
small
smaller
too

warmer
wash

well

Level A (easier)
Level B (harder)

Across clues
1. I like this shirt, but I don't like _____ color. Do you have it in blue?
2. Is that coat too big? “No, it _____ very well. I'll buy it.”
3. It's too small. Can I try a larger _____?
4. “Do you think this dress is too _____?” “Yes, it is, but we can hem it up.”
5. “I like this T-shirt. Is it machine _____?” “Of course, it's cotton. You can wash it in hot water.”
6. “I like this jacket. Is the fabric washable?” “No, it's _____ clean only.”
7. This shirt is much too small. It doesn't _____.
8. “I like this sweater. Is it machine washable?” “No, but you can _____ wash it.”
9. “That's a nice sweater.” “It’s _____! It looks good on you. I think you should buy it.”
10. “Here's a red sweater.” “Oh, I like this _____! It looks beautiful.”
11. “How do you like this sweater?” “It's _____! It looks good on you. I think you should buy it.”
12. “Do you like this scarf?” “Yes, I like it a _____!”
13. This coat is much _____ big. I need a smaller one.
15. “That's a nice sweater.” “Yes, but it's too _____ for summer. I need something cooler.”
16. “This looks nice.” “Would you like to _____ it on?” “Yes, sure.”

Down clues
1. This coat is much _____ big. I need a smaller one.
2. “Is that coat too big?” “No, it _____ very well. I'll buy it.”
3. “I like this T-shirt. Is it machine _____?”
4. “That jacket looks good. Are you going to buy it?” “No, it’s too _____ for winter. I need something warmer.”
5. “How do you like this sweater?” “It's _____! It looks good on you. I think you should buy it.”
6. “Here's a red sweater.” “Oh, I like this _____! It looks beautiful.”
7. “I like this sweater. Is it machine washable?” “No, but you can _____ wash it.”
8. “That's a nice sweater.” “It’s _____! It looks good on you. I think you should buy it.”
9. “How do you like this sweater?” “It's _____! It looks good on you. I think you should buy it.”
10. “Here's a red sweater.” “Oh, I like this _____! It looks beautiful.”
11. “How do you like this jacket? “It's _____! It looks good on you. I think you should buy it.”
12. These pants are too small. I need a _____ size.
13. “How does this hat look?” “Sorry, I _____ like it.”
14. It’s _____ _____ . Can I try a smaller size?
15. The jacket looks cool. I need a _____ size.
Level C

Across clues

2. This coat is much ___________. I need a smaller one.
3. This shirt is much too small. It ___________.
4. I like this shirt, but I ___________. Do you have it in blue?
9. “How does this hat look?” “Sorry, I _______.
12. “Is that coat too big?” “No, it _______. I’ll buy it.”
14. “This looks nice. Would you like to ________?” “Yes, sure.”
15. It’s too big. Can I try a _________?
16. “I like this sweater. Is it _________?” “No, but you can hand wash it.”
17. “Here’s a red sweater.” “Oh, I _________! It looks beautiful.”

Down clues

1. Daughter: “I like this skirt!” Mother: “It’s __________. You need a longer one.”
2. “That’s a nice sweater.” “Yes, but it’s ________ for summer. I need something cooler.”
4. “I like this jacket. Is the fabric washable?” “No, it’s __________.”
5. “Do you think this dress is ________?” “Yes, it is, but we can hem it up.”
6. “How do you like this sweater?” __________! It looks good on you. I think you should buy it.”
7. “I like this sweater. Is it machine washable?” “No, but you can __________ it.”
8. “Do you like this scarf?” “Yes, I _________!”
10. These pants are ________. I need a larger size.
11. “That jacket looks good. Are you going to buy it?” “No, it’s ________ for winter. I need something warmer.”
13. It’s too small. Can I try a ________?