

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/toosmall
too short/too long
too heavy/too light
too tight/too loose
hand wash/machine wash/dry clean only

Yesterday I went shopping with my sister. I said, “I need a new jacket.” We went into a clothing store.

“Do you like this one?” she asked. “No, I don't like it,” I said. “I don't like this color.”

My sister looked at the jackets. “Here's a good one,” she said. “Try it on!”

“It's too big,” I said. “It doesn't fit. I need a smaller size.” She looked at the jackets again. “This one looks good,” she said. “Try it on.”

“It's perfect!” I said.



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.

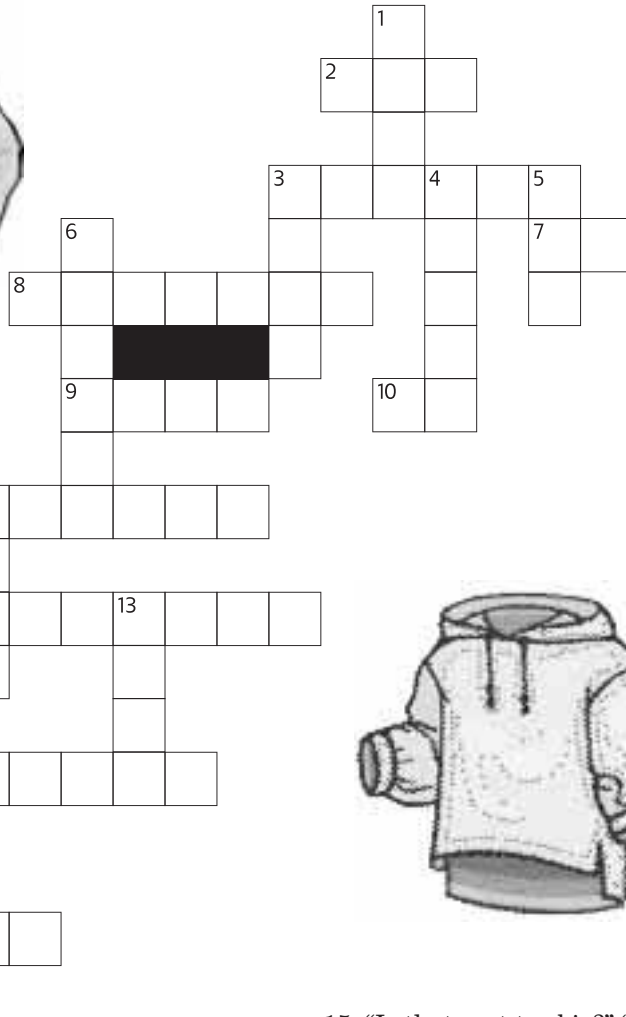
Related puzzles

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



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)

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?
14. "That's a nice sweater." "Yes, but it's too heavy for
summer. I need something _____."

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."

Level B (harder)

Word list:

- color*
- don't*
- dry*
- fit*
- fits*
- hand*
- heavy*
- larger*
- light*
- long*
- longer*
- lot*
- perfect*
- size*
- this*
- too*
- too big*
- try*
- washable*

Across clues

1. I like this shirt, but I don't like _____ color. Do you have it in blue?
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."
6. "I like this T-shirt. Is it machine _____?"
"Of course, it's cotton. You can wash it in hot water."
8. This shirt is much too small. It doesn't _____.
9. "I like this jacket. Is the fabric washable?"
"No, it's _____ clean only."
10. "Here's a red sweater." "Oh, I like this _____! It looks beautiful."
12. "Do you like this scarf?" "Yes, I like it a _____!"
14. It's _____ _____. Can I try a smaller size?
15. "That's a nice sweater." "Yes, but it's too _____ for summer. I need something cooler."

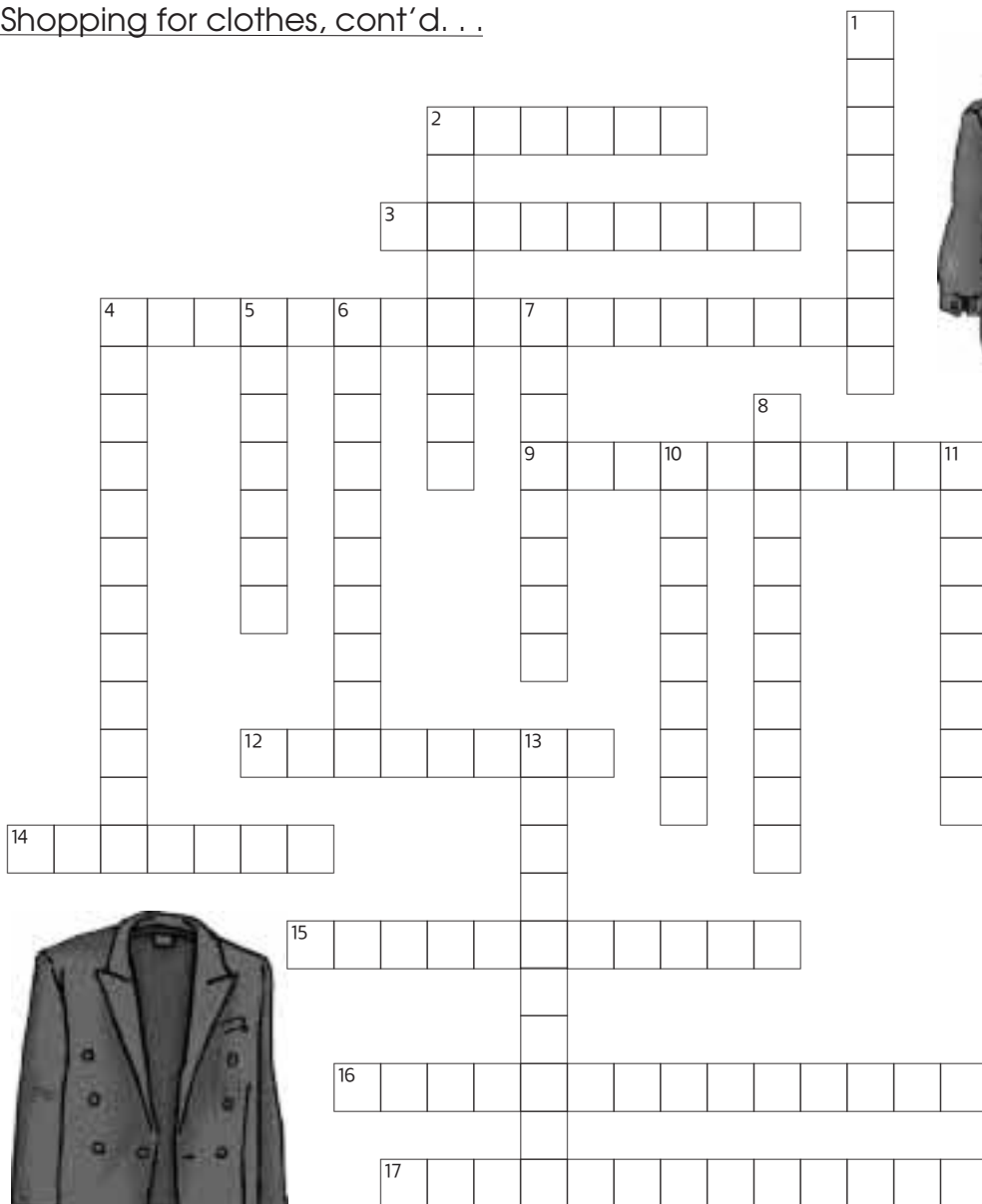
16. "This looks nice." "Would you like to _____ it on?" "Yes, sure."

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."
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."
7. "I like this sweater. Is it machine washable?" "No, but you can _____ wash it."
11. Daughter: "I like this skirt!" Mother: "It's too short. You need a _____ one."
12. These pants are too small. I need a _____ size.
13. "How does this hat look?" "Sorry, I _____ like it."



A crossword puzzle grid with 16 numbered starting points for clues. The grid consists of white squares for letters and empty spaces for non-letter characters. The numbers are placed in the top-left corner of each starting square.



- Word list**
- doesn't fit*
 - don't like it*
 - don't like this color*
 - dry clean only*
 - fits well*
 - hand wash*
 - it's perfect*
 - larger size*
 - like it a lot*
 - like this color*
 - machine washable*
 - smaller size*
 - too big*
 - too heavy*
 - too light*
 - too long*
 - too short*
 - too small*
 - try it on*

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 _____?

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."