

## 8 Vásárlás és szolgáltatások

I like shopping. When I want to buy food, I usually go to a CBA supermarket, which is quite near. When I want to buy something special, I go to an Auchan hypermarket. There are two Auchan hypermarkets within 5 kilometres of my home, and there is another one about 10 kilometres from me. I sometimes buy clothes and things for the car in Auchan. I buy chocolate, ice-cream, catfood and dogfood in Lidl. There is a very good second-hand clothes shop (turi in Hungarian) not far from my home. I buy a lot of clothes there. When I need household appliances, I usually go to Auchan but sometimes I look at webshops on the Internet. I love buying technical things (mobile phones, tablets, headphones, flashlights etc.) in webshops. They are often cheaper on the Internet. My wife loves buying clothes in Auchan. I sometimes go to small shops but I prefer supermarkets and hypermarkets. You can find nearly everything you want in a hypermarket and the prices are lower too. Some people, however, say that hypermarkets are not good because they kill small shops with their lower prices and thus cause unemployment. In small shops you can talk to the shopkeeper or the shop assistant so you get a more personal service. I sometimes go to the market, too. You can buy a lot of nice things at the market near my home. I often buy a hamburger, rice, meat, fruit and vegetables there. Prices can be very different in different shops. You need to look around to find the best prices. Quite often, you find the best price in a webshop. The simplest way to pay is by cash but paying by bank card is more convenient. If you lose your cash or somebody, for example a pickpocket, steals it, you can probably kiss it goodbye. However, if you lose a bank card, or a crook steals it, you can cancel it.

There are some times when we do more shopping than usual. For example at Christmas everybody buys presents, so the shops sell far more things. It is a custom that at Christmas you buy presents for your family and friends. But not only at Xmas. You get presents at Easter, on your birthday and perhaps on your nameday too. Of course, people bring their family and friends little gifts when they return from abroad or from a big trip, too.

Advertising is an important part of our lives. There are advertisements everywhere. In newspapers, on the Internet, on the radio and on television. Radio and television advertisements are usually called commercials. Advertising is big business. Some websites, radio and television channels and newspapers can only exist because the advertisers pay a lot of money for the advertisements. We may complain that TV programs are interrupted by long commercial breaks and stupid commercials but without them the TV channel might not exist and would not show films at all. I have seen some very nice commercials on TV but not many. On the other hand, if you make a successful website and allow companies to put advertisements on your website, you can make a lot of money.

A photographer will take your photo when you need a photo for example for your passport. I went to a photographer in 1997 because I needed a beautiful photo of myself.

A hairdresser will cut your hair and make you a beautiful hairstyle. I regularly go to the hairdresser because I don't like long hair. I always have my hair cut short.

When your clothes get damaged, you don't always buy new clothes at once. You take your clothes to a tailor and he or she mends them. It is certainly cheaper than buying new clothes.

I know a very nice tailor and I always take my clothes to her if I have a problem with them.

At the post office you can buy stamps and envelopes, post letters, send and receive parcels, pay bills and send money. Nowadays people send fewer letters and telegrams than earlier

because they write emails instead. Email is used more and more, even in very official situations. People also send less money from the post office because they use bank transfers. Nowadays everybody has a telephone. Most people use a mobile phone and not so many people use a land telephone line. Some people even have more than one mobile phone. I have two mobile phones myself.

The Internet is a worldwide network of computers. Very simply, it is a network where each computer can communicate with each computer. The Internet was one of the greatest inventions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Internet gives you access to a whole lot of information. Before the Internet, people had to go to the library to find information and there was less information in libraries than on the Internet now. It was also much more difficult to find information in a library.

Banks also provide a very important service. It is a great deal more convenient to pay by bank card than by cash and a bank card is also safer. If you have to pay money, a bank transfer is more convenient than paying money by cash. I like my bank card very much and like paying with it. I also pay my bills by bank transfer. I can transfer money on my computer through the Internet.

If you have a car, you have to maintain it regularly. When your car has a problem or breaks down, you need to take it to a mechanic. Some people repair their car at home but it is not common. I have a little car. Fortunately, I have a good mechanic, who is honest and works well. Some dishonest mechanics overcharge people and don't work well.

The police help maintain public safety. Police cars patrol the streets and if the police officers notice anything out of the ordinary, they investigate it. If you see a robbery or other crime, you can call the police and they come and catch the criminal. The work of a police officer is difficult and dangerous. Fortunately, I haven't had any problems with the police because I am a law-abiding citizen. ☺