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Lesson 1

GOING SHOPPING

Amy is at a clothing store shopping for a new pair of pants. Lisa, a saleswoman, asks her if she needs any help.

Lisa: May I help you?

Amy: I'm **just browsing**.

Lisa: Let me know if I can help. My name is Lisa.*

Amy: Do these pants **come in** black?

Lisa: Yes, but we're **sold out**. They're so popular, we can't keep them **in stock**.

Amy: Do you have any black pants **on sale**?

Lisa: Yes, these are **marked down** from $69.95 to $24.95.

Amy: That's a **good buy**, but **I'm not crazy about** the fabric.

Lisa: What about these pants? These are **on sale** for $49.

Amy: That's a little **pricey**, but I'll **try them on**.

(Amy enters the fitting room with the pants. A few minutes later, Lisa comes to check on her).

Lisa: How are the pants?

Amy: A little *snug*.**

Lisa: That style does **run small**. Let me bring you the next size up.

(Lisa hands Amy the pants and Amy puts them on).

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Amy: These pants are a little big, aren't they?***

Lisa: No, they fit nicely!

Amy: They're *baggy* in the back, don't you think?

Lisa: No, they're perfect. **Take my word for it.**

Amy: I'm just not sure. I think I'd better **hold off** for now.

* Sales clerks often introduce themselves by giving their first name. They usually work on commission, so they get a percentage of the sale. When you check out, the cashier may ask, "Was anybody helping you today?" You tell the cashier the name of the sales clerk and he or she gets credit for the sale.

** Words in italics are defined in the Glossary on page 169.

*** Underlined material is the focus of the "Language Lens" section.

IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS
(to) come in – to be available in; to be sold in a certain color, style, size, or material • Does this jacket **come in** leather?
(a) good buy – a good price; a bargain • You bought that Tommy Hilfiger shirt for just $15? That's a **good buy**!
(to) hold off – to wait to do something; to delay • We'd like to buy a new car, but we're going to **hold off** until the new models are released.
in stock – available for sale • If you're interested in that toaster, you should buy it now. We've only got a few left **in stock**.

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just browsing – shopping, without necessarily buying anything; only looking • "May I help you find something?" — "No, thanks. I'm **just browsing**."
marked down – lowered in price; on sale • This shirt was **marked down** from $49.95 to $24.95.
(to) not be crazy about – to not like very much; to not be enthusiastic about • I'm **not crazy about** your plan to spend all day at the mall.
on sale – at a reduced price • I like this leather jacket, but $299 is expensive. I'll wait until it goes **on sale**.
pricey – expensive • Lucia's Trattoria is a great restaurant, but it's **pricey**. Dinner for two costs about $150.
(to) run small / to run big – to fit small / to fit large (a cut or style of clothing that is smaller or bigger than expected) • These shoes **run small**, so if you're usually a size 7, try an 8.
sold out – completely sold • Gary went to the Apple store to buy the new iPad, but it was **sold out**.
take my word for it – trust me; believe me • **Take my word for it**. You won't find this camera cheaper at any other store.
(to) try something on – to put something on to see if it fits • You'd better **try on** your wedding dress again before the wedding to make sure it still fits!

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✍ Practice the Expressions

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

1) You look great in black. Take my word ____ it!
   a) in b) for c) with

2) This jacket is a good deal. It's marked ____ from $249 to $99.
   a) down b) up c) over

3) When the salesman asked if he could help me, I said I was just ____.
   a) searching b) shopping c) browsing

4) Sorry, the book you're looking for is not ____ stock. It's very popular.
   a) at b) for c) in

5) This shirt costs just $14.95. That's a good ____.
   a) buy b) sell c) purchase

6) We don't have any more striped scarves. We're sold ____.
   a) out b) off c) up

7) Does this sweater come ____ any other colors?
   a) with b) from c) in

8) Would you like to try that suit ____?
   a) up b) on c) in

9) Those shoes ____ big. Try the next size down.
   a) walk b) run c) skip

10) I'm not sure I need another pair of jeans. I'm going to hold ____ for now.
   a) off b) in c) up

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Language Lens: Tag Questions

Tag questions are short fragments at the end of a sentence. They turn a statement into a question. They are common in spoken English.

Note these uses and examples. The tag is underlined:
⇒ **To check if something is true**: You're going to the party tonight, aren't you?
⇒ **To ask for agreement**: We should bring a bottle of wine to the party, shouldn't we?
⇒ **To emphasize something**: Sara's certainly self-confident, isn't she?
⇒ **To make a request more friendly**: Open the door, could you?

If the verb in the main part of the sentence is positive (+), the verb in the tag is negative (-).

Main verb (+)	Tag verb (-)	Example
are ('re)	aren't	You're in good shape, aren't you?
should	shouldn't	We should go, shouldn't we?
can	can't	She can swim, can't she?
do	don't	You do love me, don't you?
'll be (will be)	won't	They'll be here later, won't they?

If the verb in the main part of the sentence is negative (-), the verb in the main part of the tag is positive (+).

Main verb (-)	Tag verb (+)	Example
're not (are not)	are	You're not coming, are you?
shouldn't	should	We shouldn't give up, should we?
can't (cannot)	can	We can't leave now, can we?
don't (do not)	do	We don't play with our food, do we?
won't	will	You won't cry when I go, will you?

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Quick Quiz

Fill in the blank with the correct tag:

Example:
You've got class tomorrow, ____?

Answer: You've got class tomorrow, don't you?

1) It's hot out today, ____?

2) Your father is a doctor, ____?

3) You're coming to my party, ____?

4) Your parents live in Florida, ____?

5) You were born in India, ____?

6) It's not raining out, ____?

7) You can't stay another day, ____?

8) You should call your mother, ____?

9) You can ski, ____?

10) We shouldn't bring our kids, ____?

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Lesson 2

RETURNING AN ITEM TO THE STORE

Paul bought a camera yesterday that doesn't work. He returns it to the store. Tim, the salesman, helps him make an exchange.

Paul: Hi, I bought this camera here yesterday, and it's not working.

Tim: Did you charge the battery and put it in correctly?

Paul: Yes. I followed the directions **to the letter**.

Tim: Do you mind if I **take a crack at** it?

Paul: **Be my guest**.

Tim: I usually **have the magic touch** ... Hmmm, you're right. It doesn't work. Would you like a *replacement*?

Paul: No, this is the second one I've had to return. I think I'll **steer clear of** this model.

Tim: **I hear what you're saying**. It's *frustrating* when you get one bad unit, **let alone** two!

Paul: Yeah, it's a **bummer**! I'd like my money back.

Tim: If you give me your receipt, I'll **issue a credit** to your credit card. But you might also try a different model or brand.

Paul: Maybe I will try a different camera.

Tim: We've got an excellent Canon camera that's the same price as this one. It would be an **even exchange**.

Paul: Okay, I'll take it. I hope this one **works out**.

Tim: If you're not happy with it, **don't hesitate to** bring it back.