



TARTU STATE UNIVERSITY

CONVERSATIONAL EXERCISES I

Compiled by

A. Kriit

TARTU 1976

TARTU STATE UNIVERSITY

CONVERSATIONAL EXERCISES I

Compiled by
A. Kriit

TARTU 1976

Kinnitatud Filoloogiateaduskonna
nõukogus 17. mail 1976

KUSTUTATUD

Arch.

Tartu Riikliku Ülikooli
Raamatukogu

3716 3666

PREFACE

The present study aid provides material for conversation lessons. It is primarily meant for students who study English as a main subject, but it can also be used by those students who study English as a general subject. All four topics (Home Life, Meals, Shopping, Fashions and Clothes) include a basic text and several supplementary texts and dialogues which contain the necessary vocabulary. Additional Word Lists can be used for more detailed discussions and for making up short dialogues and situations by the students themselves.

A. K.

HOME LIFE

Housing in Britain

No visitor to Britain can help being struck by the many building sites and the relatively large number of new houses and flats that he sees in the suburbs of towns and cities all over the country. The overwhelming majority of these dwellings are two-storey houses, built either in rows (terraced houses), in pairs (semi-detached houses), or singly (detached houses), with a small enclosed garden at the front and the back. In recent years a considerably higher proportion of new housing has been in the form of flats, and blocks of flats have now become a common feature of the urban scene. Nevertheless, an increasing number of people, mainly elderly persons and childless couples, prefer to live in bungalows.

Most houses in Britain are still built with bricks, but housebuilding is very much more mechanized than it used to be. Contemporary bricklayers, plasterers, tilers, joiners, glaziers, painters, electricians and plumbers use modern techniques, and work with new kinds of materials and standardized components. The unit-construction of blocks of flats, using large prefabricated concrete panels or room-units, is not yet widespread.

The outer walls of most houses and bungalows and even many blocks of flats are built of brick; stone and wood are used chiefly for decorative purposes. The facades of houses and flats are mostly not cement-rendered, or, if they are, only partly.

Some flats and the great majority of houses are heated wholly or partly by means of open fireplaces. But British people employ a wide variety of auxiliary heaters such as electric fires, space heaters and night storage heaters. As a general rule British bedrooms remain unheated, and in winter are notoriously cold. For this reason hot-water bottles and electric blankets are standard equipment in most

homes. Central heating is becoming more common in ordinary dwelling houses today. The most common fuels for central heating systems are oil, gas, anthracite, coke and briquettes.

Modern British houses rarely have attics, cellars or balconies, and double glazing is also still something of a rarity. As almost every house has a small garden, window-boxes and indoor plants are less common than in some other countries. The front-garden, which usually is often surrounded by well-trimmed hedges, consists of a smooth green lawn surrounded by neat flower-beds. The back-garden may be similar, or may be used for growing vegetables. In either case it may contain a wooden shed in which tools, bikes and all sorts of odds and ends are kept.

As is implied above, most of the new residential areas and housing estates have been built on the outskirts of towns and cities, well away from the industrial estates with their factory buildings, warehouses, power stations and railway sidings, and also at a considerable distance from the town or city centres, where most of the new buildings consist of shops, office blocks, luxury flats and public buildings. In the inner parts of many British industrial towns and cities large areas of slums still persist, however. These overcrowded, unhygienic houses and tenements are considered unfit for people to live in, but they are still occupied, for the rate of slum clearance is slow in relation to the size of the problem. Despite all the building that has taken place since the war, there is still an acute housing shortage in many parts of Britain. Houses and flats are commodities and are bought and sold like any other commodity.

Broadly speaking, three main alternatives are open to a family seeking a home in contemporary Britain: they may rent a house or flat from a private landlord; they may rent a publicly-owned council house or flat; they may buy a house of their own, usually on a mortgage.

Most, but not all, privately rented accommodation consists of older houses and tenements but is nevertheless in great demand. Rents are high and have been rising rapidly. Private tenants who cannot pay high rents may be evicted, for the housing shortage is so great that the landlord can usually find a tenant who is willing to pay what he demands. As a result there are many thousands of homeless families in Britain's big cities, notably in London.

In the inter-war period, and particularly in the immediate post-war years, large numbers of council houses were built and let at moderate rents with the help of subsidies from the central government and the local councils. The aim was to provide decent accommodation for working people at rents which they could afford. Council houses were, and still are, in great demand. They are democratically allocated on the basis of waiting or priority lists. But there are still long waiting lists for council houses everywhere, and in some towns and cities the lists have been closed. Council rents have also soared in recent years and are sometimes so high that lower-paid workers or old-age pensioners cannot afford to pay them. Under these circumstances it is no wonder that millions of families decide to buy a house of their own on mortgage. Becoming an owner-occupier, however, is not a very satisfactory solution of the problem either, because the burden of mortgage repayments is very heavy indeed.

HOME LIFE

A Spot of Gardening

Roger and Rosemary are in the garden of their new house. They are about to plant some new bulbs and are busy reading some instructions on the subject. Roger reads out the first direction which says that the bulbs must be removed from their packages immediately on arrival. Observing that the bulbs are still in parcels, Roger casts a challenging look at Rosemary, who, as always, is ready with an answer. "Look,"

she says, pointing to the printed directions, "Read what it says there." Roger reads on, and discovers that the bulbs will come to no harm if they are left in their paper parcels, provided that they have in fact been opened. On looking again, he sees that they have in fact been opened. Nothing daunted, Roger continues reading out directions without first looking to see if Rosemary has already carried them out. Has she dug up the garden and prepared the soil? he asks. Here again Rosemary has an answer. "I have dug some of it," she says, "but I left the rest for you to finish." And so on they go, arguing over the directions till in the end Roger gives up, goes into the house to read his paper, and tells Rosemary not to blame him if no flowers appear in the garden at all!

1. Try to characterize both Roger and Rosemary. Which of them is the 'ruler of the roost'?
2. Do you think Rosemary was right to act as she did?
3. Do you think Rosemary is an efficient housewife? Give your reasons.
4. What are some of the other jobs a gardener has to do in spring?
5. Give the names of some gardening tools.
6. Which do you think is it better to have an orchard or a vegetable garden? Give your reasons.
7. Why was it necessary to open the parcels containing bulbs?
8. What kind of argument do you think will Roger and Rosemary have in a month's time?

... (It was pouring with rain, and Roger, who had arrived home before Rosemary, was in the kitchen preparing the evening meal.)

Suddenly he heard the outside door shut with a bang, and in walked Rosemary, taking him completely by surprise.

"What on earth are you doing?" she yelled at the top of her voice, and crash, bang, Roger dropped the potatoes on to the floor!

"I have been getting the dinner," came the feeble reply, "and you made me jump when you slammed the door; that's why I dropped the potatoes."

"If you had looked at the clock you would not have been taken by surprise, you'd have expected me," came Rosemary's swift reply. "And what on earth is this?" she screamed, as she caught sight of something which looked suspiciously like a lump of coal.

"That's the meat," said Roger timidly; "the gasman came when I was cooking it, and I'm afraid I forgot about it; when I did remember, it had overcooked."

"That's the understatement of all time," said Rosemary, "it's burned to a cinder. None of this would have happened if you had been concentrating on what you were doing. Roger, you are quite useless. Thank heaven I got home in time to save the house from being burned to the ground!"

1. Enlarge on the incident in the kitchen. Retell it in the Present Continuous Tense form. Add all kinds of details of your own.

... Roger is in the kitchen, trying to get the evening meal ready by the time Rosemary comes home. But he is having a rather bad time of it. Rosemary comes in tired after a hard day's work. She is soaking wet because it is pouring with rain and she has had a crowded, delayed and uncomfortable journey home. She is not in the best of tempers ...

2. Make up a dialogue between a young couple, who are just trying to paper their bedroom.
3. You witness an accident in the kitchen. Describe it.
4. Describe your first attempt at baking a cake. (a success, a dismal failure)

The Strange Case of the Dancing Dustman

Strange things are happening down in Green Crescent, Oldham. It seems that the dustmen, or garbage disposal operatives as they prefer to be called, just don't want to collect rubbish. They prefer to dance on it.

Silver-haired, old-age pensioner Mary Lamb, 78, who lives at No. 27, a neat semi-detached, told our reporter, "I just can't understand it. On Wednesdays and Saturdays the dustmen arrive, collect the dustbins and scatter the rubbish all over my drive and the pavement. They they jump up and down on it like savages. It's been going on for three months now."

Her neighbour, Alice Scott, a trimly-dressed, 36-year-old mother of five, complained, "I'm just fed up with clearing up rubbish off my lawn."

Said a dustman, "They must be seeing things. My mates don't like dancing!"

A clerk at the Oldham Department of Health stated, "The complaint has been taken seriously and the matter is being looked into."

1. What do you think of this strange case? 2. What do you think will be the outcome of the investigation? 3. Are you satisfied with the way rubbish is collected at your place? 4. What is your opinion of a dustman's job? How could people help to make it easier?

Ann and the New Sink

(Robert, Ann and George)

R: What makes you think that I'd know anything about a gadget of this kind? What did you call it - a sink waste something or other?

A: A sink waste disposal unit. Robert, you might just think of something that would stop it doing this. After all, the waste is meant to go down not up into the air.

R: Oh, yes. I can think of something; but I could have done that without getting up out of my chair.

A: What, then?

R: Send for a plumber! - or George. Remember, the plumber will only come when he's free, but George will come at once.

G: Has come at once! Is anything wrong?

A: Oh, George, thank goodness! This sink waste thing - when I turn it on, it's supposed to break the things up and reduce them to pulp, and then send them down the waste pipe.

G: And this one isn't. It's sending a sort of jet of pulp in- to the air, and all over the place.

A: Just look at the mess it's made already.

G: And you've sent for the plumber?

A: Of course.

R: And I've got the book of instructions - I went and fetched it the moment Ann told me about all this. It's in this folder.

G: That's sensible - to keep all the instruction leaflets together ... Now let me have a look behind the sink here ... Ah yes, I see. One pipe goes down here ... and there's another pipe going along behind the sink ... this has to lead somewhere. Do you mind if I just try it, Miss Ann? I'd like to see for myself what happens.

R: Then stand well back -

G: I'll just put these vegetable parings down and press the switch -

A: But it's working properly now!

G: I don't think so. Let me look at the instructions now -

A: And while you do that I'll take the washing out of the washing-machine -

R: So you don't really need me any more, do you?

A: I don't think so, thank you, darling - Oh! This washing-machine is the one thing that never lets me down.

R: Well, there's always a first time.

A: Oh, no, not today.

R: What's the matter?

A: Oh! look at this, my beautiful new white dress - it's pale green.

R: And a very dirty looking patchy pale green too -

A: Oh!

R: Well, I suppose it shouldn't have gone in the washing-machine.

A: But it's guaranteed, and meant to be washed in the machine.

G: Everything else is pale green too; I wonder what the third calamity will be.

A: Oh, George!

G: Let me have a look in that washing-machine. ... Good gracious, pea-pods.

R: Pea-pods? We had peas for lunch.

A: Heavens, Robert, look at your white shirt - pea-green, a beautiful pea-green shirt.

R: I know what the third calamity is going to be.

A: I wasn't laughing at you, Robert.

G: Well, now we know what's wrong, somehow the kitchen waste got into the wrong pipe ... that's this one, the one running along behind the sink, which leads into the washing-machine, so that when the proper pipe became blocked, those poor old pea-pods took a sharp turn to the right and found themselves in the washing-machine.

R: Someone must have connected the pipes wrongly. It's unbelievable.

A: But it's happened -

G: And there's nothing I can do, but, I don't think I really envy that plumber.

R: No, poor chap!

1. Tell of a similar incident in your kitchen. 2. Do people always get the instructions right? 3. What do you think of Robert as a husband? 4. Which of the two would you sooner call a Handy-Andy, Robert or George? 5. Is Ann technically-

minded? 6. Are you clever at handling all kinds of new kitchen gadgets? 7. What other labour-saving devices for housewives do you know? 8. Can all articles of clothing be machine-washed? 9. Have you got a sink waste disposal unit in your home? 10. How do you dispose of kitchen waste? 11. Do you often have to send for a plumber? 12. Will he come at once? On what occasions is it necessary for a plumber to come at once? 13. Do you ever put coloured articles of clothing into the washing-machine together with self-coloured or white articles?

Short Dialogues

1. How's the new house getting on? - It's O.K., but it needs doing up. I seem to be spending most of my free time decorating and fixing things.
2. I've got a problem with my neighbours. They put their television on too loud. - Well, ask them to turn it down. - Yes, but I dislike asking people to do something like that when they ought to know better - it can cause bad feeling.
3. There's a lot to be said for living away from home, you know. I'm enjoying being independent. I'm glad I'm a student. - I agree, and I think in a way you appreciate home more. - Yes, and it's certainly nice going home and having some good home-cooking and getting my laundry done.
4. D'you fancy going to the pictures this evening? - No, not really. I fancy staying home and watching television. There's a football match on.
5. D'you go out anywhere on Sundays? - No, I prefer putting my feet up on Sundays and spending a few hours with the papers to going out. It's much more relaxing.
6. Waiter, I ordered my meal half-an-hour ago. - It'll be ready soon, sir. - Well, I don't intend waiting all evening. I'll give you five more minutes, then I'm going.
7. Thanks for lending me your power drill. I've got all

the shelves fixed up now, and it didn't take me very long either. Pretty useful, these home-repair things. - Well, any time you want to borrow it, you're welcome.

8. I don't know whether to go on holiday on a package tour or to make all the arrangements myself. - I think you'll find that going on a package tour is far less expensive than arranging everything yourself.

Short Dialogues

1. These new council changing rooms at the park are marvelous, aren't they? You can have a hot shower now after a football match. - Yes. To think at one time we changed in a shed and gave ourselves a rub-down from a bucket of cold water.
2. Right, let's screw these bookshelves on and get it over and done with as soon as possible. I want to watch sport on television this afternoon. - Look, darling, let's take our time putting them up and do it properly. Sport can wait.
3. How's married life treating you? - It's very pleasant. The only problem is trying to find somewhere of our own to live. We're in rented accommodation at the moment, and we'll have to stay there until such time as we can put a down payment on a house. Could be years.
4. Did the local food agree with you when you were on holiday? - Most of the time, and if any of us had an upset stomach, the hotel owner produced some special mixture of his own which worked wonders.
5. We're home at last, dear. Good film, wasn't it? - Yes. Brrr. It's like a fridge in here. Quick, get that fire on. We really must get some central heating, dear. - But it's so expensive.
6. D'you have any trouble getting up in the morning? - No, my landlady shouts from downstairs every two minutes, and she's got a voice like a foghorn.
7. Anything good on television this evening? - Well, at 9.15

there's Archie Rice. He's quite a good comedian. - Some of his jokes are as old as the hills. He's corny.

Short Dialogues

1. Will it be safe to put a wall-unit on that wall, dear? It won't fall down, will it? - Don't worry, that wall's as solid as a rock.
2. Have you found the fusebox, dear? - It's as black as pitch down here in the cellar. Could you get me another candle?
3. You're coming to my house warming party on Saturday, aren't you? - Certainly. What time d'you want me to get there? - Well, if people turn up at about nine or so I think it'll be all right. - O.K. I'll turn up just after nine, then.
4. I don't think it's worth having a car these days. - Why not?-Well, look at the cost of petrol, and repairs, and so on. - Well, I'd be lost without my car.
5. I hate travelling in the rush-hour, I get trodden on and shoved about and the trains are always packed. - Do what I've done, buy a bicycle. - Yes, but I hate getting wet. A bicycle is only O.K. if the weather's fine.
6. I think the people who are to blame for the countryside becoming polluted are all these industrialists who just dump their rubbish anywhere. - Yes, the trouble is that the fines are too small, so they don't care tuppence about polluting the rivers.
7. It's going to cost me about 200 to have the house decorated. - Can't you do it yourself? It's much cheaper that way. - The trouble is I'm no good at decorating or anything like that.
8. My new cooker's marvellous; it's got everything, including a time-switch. - That must be useful. What d'you do, put the food in the oven and then go shopping? - Well, I do sometimes. I just set the time-switch and it prevents the food from getting overcooked.

Short Dialogues on Household Problems

1. My television's broken down. - I'll have a look at it if you like. - Well, please don't put yourself out. I can always get it fixed at the shop. - It's O.K., it's no bother at all.
2. Have you moved into your new house yet? - I'm not getting it now because the owner decided he didn't want to move after all, so the whole thing fell through.
3. Are you going anywhere this spring? - No, I've been meaning to do the house up for a long time, and the only chance I'll have is during the holidays.
4. Houses cost the earth these days, don't they? - I know. I think the best thing is to buy an old house cheap and then do it up. You save a lot of money that way.
5. The noise in my road's driving me mad. They're putting in new gas pipes. - And using pneumatic drills? - Yes, I just can't put up with it any longer.
6. That television's on too loud. - But, Daddy, it's pop music. - I don't care what it is, turn it down.
7. I just don't know where all my money goes these days. I'll just have to cut down on my spending. - Me, too. I've saved nothing this year.
8. I'm going on a diet, I'm putting on too much weight. - Why don't you cut down on beer? - Cut down on beer? Not likely! I'll cut down on bread and potatoes. I'll soon lose a few pounds that way.
9. D'you know his landlady won't let him have any visitors after nine in the evening? - I know. I just don't know how he puts up with it.

V o c a b u l a r y

Buildings and Houses

apartment (houses)
council houses
bungalow
cottage
country house
dwelling house
private residence
mansion
manor (house)
castle
cabin
barracks
huts (hovels)
earthquake-proof
multi-storey buildings
sturdily built
a makeshift building
a pent-house
sky-scrappers
high-rise buildings
a house and its occupants
a home and its inmates

Parts of a House

balcony
glassed-in verandah
porch
roof
loft (attic, garret)
staircase
hall(way)
bedroom, living room
parlour, drawing-room
nursery

basement (cellar)
lumber room
lavatory (toilet)
cloak-room
walls, floor, ceiling
chimney, gable
doorway, threshold
entrance to the house
facade (front), back

kitchen (kitchen units, sink, stove, oven, kitchen-range, refrigerator, dish-washer, plate-rack, chopping-block, cooking-tops, waste disposal unit, kitchenware, foodmixer, cutlery, tableware, pots, pans, saucepan, casserole, jars, sieve, ladle, skimmer, basin, grater, milk can, mincer, tub, dust pan, broom, brush, shelf, percolator, coffee (tea) pot, mitts, dish-cloth, tea towel, lino(leum), built-in water heater, stopper, griddle, storage cabinets, oven-broiler, four-burner range top, oven-proof, screw-top jars, collapsible spoon, cocktail-shaker, pail, an all-purpose knife, a strainer spoon, potato masher, carving fork, slicer, shredder, a knife-sharpener, ice crusher, tongs, an all-purpose tray, skillet, non-stick pan, skin remover, a lift-out container,

platter, dish, bowl, scoop, tin-opener, bottle;

rooms (carpeted, polished, waxed, hardwood floors; curtains, curtain rod, doorhandle, doormat, doorviewer, latch, rugs, rubber mats, tapestry, hangings; screen, partition; lampshade, standard lamp, chair, arm-chair, stool, bed, folding (camp) bed, inflatable mattress, bench, writing-desk, book-case, cupboard, closet, dresser, mirror (looking-glass), hallstand, clothes stand, rack, settee, couch, rocking chair, sofa, divan-bed, footstool, wardrobe, built-in wardrobe);

household chores (domestic chores)

scrub, wash, clean, tidy up, do the rooms, launder, wash up, iron, mend, air the rooms, dust the furniture, sweep the floor, mop the floor, give the room a clean-out, take out the refuse (waste), cook, bake, beat the carpets, polish the floor, go marketing, go shopping, rinse out cups, vacuum, etc.

house fittings

modern conveniences, (door)bell, install electricity, bulb, switch, socket, electric meter, gas meter, geyser, steam heating, space heating, central heating, radiator, refuse-chute, shower-bath, tap, lock, key, padlock, latch-key, Yale lock, bolt; gas man, garbage man, postman, milkman, plumber, fitter, repair man, glazier.

lighting and lighting appliances

bulb, bulb fuses, unscrew a bulb, candle, wax, candlestick, chandelier, torch, flashlight, globe, lead (flex), match (box, strike a match, put out, plug(in), switch on(off), wire, wiring.

M e a l s

Grandfather and the Conger Soup

(Grandfather, Ann and Louise)

G: I hope you're ready for your lunch, Ann. It's all beautifully set out for you on your own new tray, the special one.

A: Thank you, Grandfather.

G: I'm glad you gave me this adjustable table - I find it very useful when I'm writing and want to sit in my comfortable chair.

A: I'm glad you've got it too; and most grateful to you for lending it to me. I'm quite hungry - what have I got? A nice piece of steak?

L: Good gracious, no! You're not even supposed to want steak - your temperature's only been normal a few hours.

A: But I feel fine.

G: I'll take the cover off the plate for you, and we'll stay and talk to you while you eat your lovely steamed fish.

A: I'm not really hungry ...

L: What did I say?

A: What I meant is that I'm not fish hungry, I don't feel like fish. But I think I could manage just a little bit of steak.

G: There isn't any. We're all going to have fish -

L: But ours won't be fillet of plaice steamed in milk.

G: If you've never had Louise's steamed fish, Ann, you don't know what you're missing. Now I know a good thing when I meet it - and that's one of my favourite dishes.

L: I've cut you some wafer-thin bread and butter too - and you know you always enjoy that.

A: Thank you, Louise, it's awfully kind of you to take so much trouble - I will just try the plaice, but I know I shan't like it. You see, I just can't bear even the idea of steamed fish.

G: What are we having, Louise? Plaice too?

L: No. I've got smoked haddock - also to be steamed - for you and Robert.

G: And yourself?

L: No, I like plaice better, it has such a delicate flavour - cooked as I cook it.

G: I like it too.

L: You can have it if you prefer it, but I thought Robert would prefer smoked haddock.

A: Only because he's never had this! It's delicious. Oh, Louise - why have you never given me this before?

L: Because you've always said you didn't like fish steamed in milk - never having tried it apparently.

A: But I only said I didn't like the idea of it.

G: I know exactly what you mean.

L: So do I - it's something one can't help.

G: Though if you have to overcome some irrational dislike - you are often much richer for it afterwards.

L: John, do you remember the conger soup - that day in Alderney?

G: That's going back a long way - but I do remember it.

A: Conger soup? But that's delicious!

G: But you only know that because of what happened to us that day in Alderney. Louise and I were very young, of course, and we felt we had to be on our best behaviour because we were staying with friends.

L: I shall never forget the look of horror on your face when you saw that child under the window that morning.

G: Yes, a smallish child and an enormous conger eel on a barrow. Gloriously fresh, of course, it'd only just been caught -

L: And our hostess said that we'd be able to have conger soup for lunch.

G: Looking back I think she said it because she knew we'd never had it, and she wanted to tease us. Again, it was the idea of it, wasn't it? We crept shuddering in to lunch, and of course it was absolutely delicious.

L: You made me write the recipe down there and then.

A: And it's always been one of our favourite dishes. But
plaice done like this is delicious too.

L: And there's a little dish of milk pudding to follow it.

A: But I don't like milk pudding ...

G: Have you ever tried Louise's special milk pudding? Now,
go on, say "no" and we'll run through the whole sequence
a second time.

A: After that I'd better try it, hadn't I? And I expect I
will find you're right again -

L: It is a rather special recipe - perhaps I'll give it to
you one day.

G: I wish you would, Louise -

A: Hm! So do I.

1. Is Ann a squeamish girl? Or simply pampered? 2. What
other fish can you name in English? 3. What fish dishes can
you cook? 4. Which do you prefer cooked, steamed or fried
fish? Give your reasons. 5. What do you think is Grand-
father's attitude to Ann? 6. What is his attitude to Louise?
7. When do people feel like having something special for
their meals? 8. Why do people sometimes lose appetite (suf-
fer from lack of appetite)?

T a s t e

... British taste in food is changing

"There are many more foreign restaurants than there
used to be five or ten years ago, and the housewife is be-
coming more adventurous," said Signor Enrico Fontano, the
manager of Gino's, an Italian restaurant which opened in
Hambwell recently.

"She is using more herbs, garlic and other seasoning
in her cooking, buying more olive oil and macaroni, and
trying out more exotic dishes."

Signor Fontano thinks Britain's entry into the Euro-
pean Economic Community will increase the Englishman's ap-

preciation of Continental cooking.

... To acquire a taste for something means to cultivate a liking for whatever it is. You might hear it said, for example, that English beer is an acquired taste. This implies that the speaker has not yet developed a capacity to relish it. On the other side of the coin, as any opinion poll would show, there are some foods such as icecream and chocolate mousse that are immediately likeable from the word go.

But it's not only the more bitter and sour tastes that are less delectable. Sometimes the unfamiliar consistency offends the palate, whether you are sampling cold slithery raw fish for the first time or the heavy, gluey texture of an English steamed pudding appropriately nick-named stodge, or, when it contains currants, spotty dog. Even moistened down with a yellow custard sauce, such puddings weigh indigestibly on the stomachs of the uninitiated. We are thoroughly conditioned, even stultified in our eating habits. If pork and beef are inedible for some, eating domestic animals would be equally nauseating and out of the question for others.

Poaching

To poach an egg you take it out of its shell and drop it gently into boiled salted water.

There's a trick here which you probably know: if you add a spoonful of vinegar to the water, the egg will keep its shape and be easier to fish out with a perforated spoon when it is cooked.

Once the egg has been put into the boiling water, it may be boiled for a little over three minutes; but the way to achieve a poached egg with a soft creamy white is to reduce the heat below boiling point, put the lid back on the pan, and leave it for five minutes. (An egg cooked in its shell in this way is known as a coddled egg; you coddle a person by taking exaggerated care of him, wrapping him in cotton-wool, as we say.)

Poaching fish, in kitchen terms, means cooking it in water to which certain herbs and seasonings have been added to improve the flavour. As with eggs, the fish is put into boiling liquid, but the heat is then reduced to just below boiling point - what we call simmering.

Simmering

Comparatively few things are cooked in really fast boiling water.

Usually, once the water has returned to the boil after the food has been put in, the heat is reduced to the point where it just bubbles gently, and this is called simmering.

Meat is never boiled fast or it would be hardened in the process; boiled ham, for instance, is really simmered.

English Culinary Words in a Figurative Sense

to make a hash of something to do it badly, spoil it

settle someone else's hash to silence him, to wreck his plans, to get the better of him

in a stew be fussed, worried

let him stew in his own juice you are refusing to help him or to get him out of his difficulties

being in the soup or in hot water being in trouble with one's superiors

simmer with rage and seethe with rage nowadays people more seethe themselves rather than boil their vegetables

in the gravy be in funds, to have money

have a memory (head) like a sieve be incapable of remembering anything

the pot calls the kettle black the accuser has the same fault as the accused

keep the pot boiling earn enough money to buy one's food

a pretty kettle of fish

a state of confusion

out of the frying-pan into
the fire

from a bad situation to one
that is worse

have a finger in the pie

be concerned in the matter (in
an officious way)

Recipes

Some names of recipes are remarkably apt and humorously descriptive. 'Toad in the Hole', 'Devils on Horseback' and 'Turkish Delight' come into this category. So does the favourite Brazilian party sweetmeat called 'Mother-in-law's Eyes', which is no less than wrinkled prunes stuffed with pale marzipan and nuts. 'Bomb Alaska' is another term given to a pudding that is variously known as 'Baked Ice-cream', 'Surprise Soufflé', or 'Norwegian Omelette'. As the name implies, the special feature of this dish is the combination of boiling hot and freezing cold ingredients. A hard-frozen block of ice-cream is embedded in sponge-cake that has been previously soaked in wine. This is surrounded by raspberries or strawberries on all sides. The drama begins when the 'Bomb Alaska' enveloped in the thermal protection of soft meringue made of some six egg-whites and fine sugar, is rushed to a very hot oven to cook for three minutes. If all goes according to plan, a crusty case forms round the unmelted block - and the cook will deserve hearty congratulations for bringing off a tricky culinary feat.

Irish stew is a wonderful standby for every cook - the old-hand at cooking and the newly-initiated alike.

First cut up a kilo of neck of mutton into neat pieces. Peel and slice one and a half kilos of potatoes with half that amount of onions. Choose a thick saucepan and arrange first the meat, then the vegetables in alternate layers, seasoning well with salt and pepper. Add two medium-sized cups of water and cover the saucepan securely with a lid. The stew should be allowed to simmer for three hours.

The Au-Pair in Britain

One of the ways open to a girl-student of the English language to improve her linguistic knowledge is to come to Britain for a year as an au-pair girl. It certainly seems to be a very popular method. The majority of au-pair girls go back home happy after their stay in England.

On the other hand, there is evidence of a great deal of misunderstanding between English families and au-pair girls about their relationship; tales of exploitation of one side by the other are not infrequent; though some of these, one feels, should be taken with a pinch of salt (are of doubtful origin).

The Home Office advises that the reasonable maximum time during which an au-pair may be expected to perform domestic tasks or to be on call for household duties (including baby-sitting and the care of children) is about five hours daily; and she should be given at least a day a week free. It stresses the importance of the 'free time' being genuinely free, and that the girl should be at liberty to meet her friends and to go sightseeing and to concerts, cinemas, etc. She should also have the time and opportunity for any other hobbies she may have.

In return for hospitality and keep, says the booklet, an au-pair is expected to help her hostess with household duties on a partnership basis, and to do her share of any kind of housework which the hostess herself undertakes.

Where, however, the hostess employs other help for the heavier chores, she should expect the au-pair to help only with such jobs as bed-making, washing-up, tidying and dusting, baby-sitting, taking children to and from school and looking after them in the house; she should not in that case be asked to do heavy housework.

Au-Pairs' Impressions of London

(Sixteen au-pair girls attending the same English course in London were asked to write down anything they thought

would interest others about being an au-pair in London. The sixteen sets of comments are not necessarily representative of the views of the thousands of au-pair girls staying in London area. The value of the comments lies in their frankness and the fact that they were enthusiastically given.

They were unanimous in praising London's parks and cultural life.)

....

Being an au-pair can have lots of advantages with the right family. I had a good one who helped me meet people and suggested where I should go to meet people on my own. I worked five hours a day. I found that children in a family can be very good for an au-pair's English, unless they're very typical English children, spoilt and naughty.

... The behaviour of young people in discotheques is peculiar. When a fellow feels like dancing he taps a girl on the shoulder and nods. When he gets fed up with dancing or with the girl he just leaves her on the dance floor and disappears.

Parties tend to start very late.

... English people can be very nice and helpful and real friends. But breaking the ice takes quite a time as they are generally reserved and perhaps a bit suspicious. They consider it impolite, sometimes, to tell the truth. I dislike this incincerity, as you rarely know what is really going on in their minds.

I like the free and unaffected way of life here. Nobody bothers you, whatever you do (provided you don't break the law).

I feel that people take things easily and don't worry about everyday problems.

London traffic is inefficient. The buses run irregularly, you sometimes get three in a row then none for half-an-hour.

Queueing is quite an odd English habit, and the people must certainly have lots of patience.

... I like English food such as roast beef, lamb, chicken, roast potatoes and pastry. Learning about English food is one of the good things about being an au-pair. If I hadn't become an au-pair I'd have thought English food consisted of fish and chips, horrible sausages, watery cabbage, tasteless meat and instant coffee.

English husbands are really hard-working. They help their wives a lot in the home, and at the weekends they really devote themselves to their wives and children. How marvellous English husbands are!

... The houses and streets in London are boring because they look the same.

English people are superficially polite. The thing with English people is that first you must tell them about yourself then they come out of their shells. I find English people incredibly lazy.

One thing that makes me laugh about English people is that they always say 'sorry', even if it's not their fault. I once accidentally trod on someone's foot and he apologized. Extremely polite people!

... English people are very tolerant, and you rarely see anyone turning round when a funny-dressed person walks through the streets. I like the sense of humour, and people's endless patience (when they're waiting for buses, etc.)

People don't put on their best clothes on Sunday, but are relaxed and pleasantly untidy. I like this.

Their famous politeness is not real. Older people tell you things they don't really mean, to be polite. Young people, however, are different.

I find the upper classes very snobbish, and they make a big difference between themselves and the working class.

In order to get the most practice of your English, it's best to choose a family with children, provided they're not too spoilt.

... One thing I don't like is that English people regard it as crude and impolite to tell the truth, if the truth is unpleasant.

I like London policemen because they are informal and willing to help. Their uniform is rather attractive, too.

... Young people here are very independent, and family ties are not all that close.

I think that registration procedures at the Home Office should be speeded up.

English people eat simply-prepared and tasteless food, but I don't mind it. I think, though, they are beginning to pay more attention to cooking, due to the influence of foreign restaurants.

... I find that young English people have a sense of failure. They are hindered by tradition and are terribly inhibited, but they are sincere friends, and make you feel at home immediately.

I am not impressed by the way people dress. They have no taste and don't know how to match colours together. However, the clothes in the shop-windows are tip-top, and cheap.

... English people are distant, reserved, terribly conservative and hopeless at foreign languages. They expect everybody to speak English. However, once you know them, they're sincere in their friendship.

Outside London, people are very nice. None of my adverse remarks apply to Scots, Welsh or Irish people, for whom I have nothing but eulogies.

... Living in England is quite different from life in my own country. It is not only a bowler-hat-black-umbrella or fish-and-chips life. On the other hand, people in my country imagine that London is 'swinging'. I would say that London is not a swing but a see-saw. Up and down. London is full of contrasts.

1. Discuss the life of au-pairs from the point of view of their hostesses. Try to give as many various views as possible.
2. Why do you think many of au-pairs stress the fact that it is better to choose families with children.

3. Give the reasons for many of English children being so spoilt. Give different reasons you think are responsible for this.
4. What do you think could be the advantages and disadvantages of being an au-pair in a rich family (in a poorer one)?
5. Can you portray a typical Englishman on the basis of some of the impressions given by sixteen au-pair girls?

Choose the right word from the brackets

1. How much do you earn? - About 100 a month. - Is that all, for a responsible job like that? It's ... (popcorn, sardines, peanuts, potato crisps). 2. Did Fred get that job? - No, he cooked his ... at the annual office party, when he got drunk and was very rude to the Chairman's wife (turkey, chicken, duck, goose). 3. When he got back from holiday he was as brown as a ... (coconut, chocolate-cake, coffeebean, berry). 4. When she got home from shopping she had a good ... to her husband about rising food prices (melon, soup, beef, fig). 5. D'you know that Harry got breathalysed the other day, and the result was positive? And he's a car demonstrator - he'll probably lose his job. - Yes, he's really in the ..., isn't he? (stew, soup, porridge, custard) 6. D'you know Fred's taken a second job, working evenings and weekends? He says he needs more money. - He gets enough already. He's not just content with earning a very good salary - he wants ... on his bread (jam, caviar, honey, butter). 7. I had news of Jim the other day. Apparently, he's now the country's leading expert on computer design. - He always was the ... head of the class, wasn't he? Even when he was only twelve he knew more maths than the teacher (egg, bean, pear, lemon). 8. Everyone except Anne got very excited when the wastepaper basket caught fire. She remained as cool as a ... and fetched one of the buckets of sand hanging on the classroom wall to put it out. (lime, pineapple, cucumber, grapefruit) 9. How did you get on in the

exam, Jane? - Very well. I found all the questions very easy; in fact it was a piece of ... for me. (pie, pudding, cake, toast).

V o c a b u l a r y

Bread and Confectionary

bread (white, brown; bread and butter; breadcrumbs, a loaf of bread, a slice of bread, a piece (hunk, chunk) of bread; stale, newly-baked;)

biscuit, cake, tart, sponge-cake, pastry, pie, gingerbread, bun, muffin, a fluffy sponge, a croissant, cracker, flake pie, doughnut, cheese cake, wedding cake, roller; sweetmeat, candy, lollipop, sticks of candy, chocolate, a bar of chocolate, a box of chocolates, milk (nut) chocolate, a slab of chocolate; nuts, walnuts; pretzel (knot-shaped cracknel), ice-cream, jam a jar of jam; treacle, molasses, syrup; puff pastry, sweet nut-paste (khalva); Turkish delight; nougat; drops, lozenges

flour, noodles, macaroni, spaghetti, dough, knead the dough, raise the dough, leavened dough, rich dough, dumpling, sieve flour, semolina, groats, grits, gruel, maize, millet, lentil, oats, barley, wheat, buckweat, rice, porridge, cornflakes, cereal

meat, meat dishes, bacon, rasher, fat, lean, beef, beef-steak, corned beef, tender, tough, done, underdone, overdone, overcooked, burned, pork, mutton, lamb, chicken, goose, duck, turkey, broiler, rabbit, liver, kidneys, lungs, tripes, chops, stewed steak, roast mincemeat, meat roll, collared meat, black pudding, sausages, liver wurst, wiener wurst, salami (salted and garlic flavoured), game, venison, hare, veal, ham, rolled ham, joint, frozen meat, rumpsteak, smoked ribs, tongue, stock cubes, hamburger, frankfurter, force-meat, fricassee (served with sauces)

fish, fishmonger, bream, carp, caviar(e), pressed caviar, red caviar, cod, cod-liver, crab, crawfish (crayfish), eel, herring, halibut, haddock, smoked fish, stuffed fish, tinned (canned), lobster (prawn), mackerel, oyster, perch, pike, plaice, flatfish, sole, ruff, roach, bass, burbot, salmon, sardine, shrimp, sturgeon, sprat, trout, turbot, fillet

dairy products, milk, butter milk, skimmed milk, sour milk, sweet milk, new milk, whole milk, kefir, yoghurt, butter, cream, whipped cream, sour cream, curds, cheese, cottage cheese, processed cheese, cheese paring, Cheddar, Dutch, Edam, Rochester, Roquefort, Stilton, Swiss, strong cheese, margarine, whey, malted milk,

vegetables, asparagus, beans, beet(root), sugar beet, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, cucumber, gherkin, eggplant, garlic, lettuce, leek, dill, onion, parsley, peas, pea-pods, pepper, potatoes, new potatoes, mashed potatoes, radish, horse radish, rhubarb, pumpkin, gourd, melon, tomatoes, spinach, turnip, swede, stone leek, mustard, tarragon, runner beans (French), celery, parsnip, vegetable marrow

fruits, apple, pear, plum, fig, olive, orange, tangerine, lemon, peach, apricot, banana, pineapple, cherry, grapefruit, almond, cranberry, currants, gooseberry, raspberry, strawberry, grapes, sultanas, raisins, quince, crabapple, dates; tinned, preserved, pickled, frozen fruit;

eggs, scrambled, shirred, sunny-side up, fried, boiled (hard, soft), poached, whipped, egg-shell, egg-cup, egg-whisk, newlaid eggs, addled eggs; egg powder

seasoning and spices (condiments), acid, baking powder, bitter, cinnamon, caper, cooking oil, poppy seeds, ginger, peppercorns, salt, sugar, soda, vanilla, caraway, vinegar, yeast, brown sugar, granulated sugar, castor (caster) sugar, gelatine

beverages and drinks, soft drinks, strong drinks (alcoholic), ale, beer, stout, a mug of beer, a tumbler, a cup, brandy (cognac), brands of cognac, cocktail (mixed drink), cocoa, coffee, tea, milk, lemonade, mead, kvass, sherry, martini, blends of tea, mineral water, fresh water, soda water, wine, whisky, straight vodka, neat brandy, diluted, juices

phrases used at table: have (breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, supper), for the first course, what is the second course? keep to a diet, be on a diet, dinner is served (ready), set (lay) the table, clear the table, dine out, have a drink, go halves, delicious food, tasteless food, help yourself to, have some salad, treat somebody to something, it's on me, to stand somebody a treat, feel like a cup of milk, be thirsty, pass me the salt, please; food (dis)agrees with you, have a sweet tooth, a substantial or a skimpy meal; will you take beer or wine?, may I help you to ...?, thanks, I've had a bite already; we did justice to the meal; we set to; this coffee is scalding; the tea has grown cold; I feel like eating; may I pour you out some tea?, what about a glass of milk?, Here's to our host(ess)!

S h o p p i n g

Hire-Purchase

This system of buying goods became very common during the first half of the twentieth century. Today a large proportion of all the families in Great Britain buy furniture, household goods and cars by hire-purchase. In the USA, the proportion is much higher than in Great Britain, and people there spend over ten per cent of their income on hire-purchase instalments.

The goods bought by hire-purchase are, in almost every case, goods that will last (durable) - radio and televi-

sion sets, washing-machines, refrigerators, motor-cars, motor-cycles and articles of furniture.

The price of an article bought in this way is always higher than the price that would be paid for cash. There is a charge for interest. The buyer pays a proportion, perhaps one-quarter or one-third, of the price when the goods are delivered to him. He then makes regular payments, weekly or monthly, until the full price has been paid. The legal ownership of the goods remains with the seller until the final payment has been made.

Hire-purchase has advantages and disadvantages. It helps newly-married couples with small incomes to furnish their homes. It increases the demand for goods, and in this way helps trade and employment. If families are paying each month instalments on such household goods as a washing-machine and a car, they can spend less money (or perhaps no money) in useless or perhaps harmful ways, for example, on too much alcoholic drink.

There is, however, the danger that when trade is bad, hire-purchase buying may end suddenly and make trade much worse, with, as a result, a great increase in unemployment. This is why, in some countries, the Government controls hire-purchase by fixing the proportion of the first payments and the instalments.

Answer the following questions:

1. Is the hire-purchase system common in our country? 2. If so, what goods are most commonly bought by this system? 3. What do we all have to pay if we borrow money? 4. Is the first payment for hire-purchase usually the same as the following payments or is it usually higher? 5. When does the buyer receive delivery of the goods he buys? 6. If a buyer fails to pay his instalments regularly, can the seller, in our country, take the goods back? 7. How does hire-purchase help to keep employment high? 8. How much of the family income is it wise, in your opinion, to use for hire-purchase

payments? 9. What, in your opinion, are the advantages of the system? 10. What do you think is the chief argument against the system?

A Shopping Tour

The other day I and my boyfriend went shopping together. We both needed some new clothes. I always buy my clothes at a large department store. Sometimes we help each other to choose them. I prefer wearing simple clothes, but I always try to be well dressed.

We went to the Dress Department first. I was served by a young fair-haired girl who was wearing a smart dark-blue skirt. I wanted to buy a dark-blue skirt for myself, but there were none in my size. It is no use buying clothes if they are the wrong size. After some time I chose an attractive dark-brown skirt, and a short-sleeved, coffee-coloured blouse. Then we went to the Luggage Department and bought a soft-topped case from a very polite blue-eyed young man.

Then we went to the Men's Clothing Department. My boyfriend was shown some ready-made suits by a grey-haired assistant. He tried on two ready-made suits. One was a light-coloured three-piece suit, but he did not like either of them. He decided to have a tailor-made suit as usual, so he asked the assistant to take his measurements. When the assistant said that he already had his measurements, my boyfriend said 'I've put a lot of weight on since you took my measurements for my last suit. I'm not as narrow-waisted as I was!'

We chose a dark-coloured cloth for the new suit. We also bought a new raincoat for him; his old one was beginning to let the rain in.

I wanted a new pair of shoes, so we both went to the Shoe Department. I did not want high-heeled shoes, but a low-heeled pair for walking. A tired-looking assistant showed me a few pairs of walking shoes, but I did not like any of them. It is no use buying shoes if you don't like them. I decided to wear my old ones a little longer.

1. Make up your own sentences, using the pattern 'It is no use buying (something) if ...'
2. Talk in pairs. Ask questions on the text and make your neighbour answer them in detail.
3. Describe your own shopping tour a) to the Luggage Department, b) to the Shoe Department, c) to the Textiles Department.
4. Make up a dialogue between a saleswoman and a customer in a shoe shop (in a textiles shop).

Why Can't She Make Up Her Mind?

(Mrs Dale is buying a present for her son's birthday.)

Mrs Dale: I want to buy a watch - a Wilton watch.

Salesman: Yes, madam. What shape?

Mrs Dale: Are they all the same price?

Salesman: Yes, madam; but there are these round ones, these square, and these oblong,

Mrs Dale: I see. Yes. Don't these round ones look rather heavy?

Salesman: Perhaps the square ones are lighter.

Mrs Dale: But the oblong look smarter. I think I'll have the oblong one.

Salesman: Yes, madam: the oblong.

Mrs Dale: No ... perhaps the square.

Salesman: Yes, madam; the square one.

Mrs Dale: But it is for a boy. No! I'll have the round one - or the sq... No, the ob... the sq...

Salesman (aside) "Why can't she make up her mind!"

Mrs Dale: Well ... after all, I'll buy a clock to wake him up in the morning.

Salesman: H- yes, madam. Round? - or square? - or oblong?

1. Speak about squeamish customers.
2. What qualities go to make a good salesman?
3. Speak about the advantages and disadvantages of being a shop assistant.

4. Describe the shapes and sizes of watches and clocks.

The Feminine Aspect of Shopping

(Kitty and Tatyana reach the supermarket.)

K: This market is mainly for groceries and greengrocery although there are a few other things you can buy here. Let's start over there in the fresh fruit and vegetable department.

T: Everything's certainly got up very well, it looks so attractive. Look at those potatoes, all nicely washed and packed in plastic bags! All the vegetables look so clean. I think the supermarkets should be praised for that alone.

K: Jim says that housewives as a class don't know the first thing about food. The washing, says Jim, should be done just before the cooking. Washing, again I'm quoting, is the first stage of decomposition, and the vegetables are getting more and more languid and careworn every minute they're travelling from farm to wholesaler, wholesaler to retailer or supermarket and then to the customer.

T: As a matter of fact my mother always likes to buy vegetables with the dirt still on them. I've never thought of asking her why.

K: Don't. I know I'm a lousy housewife but I like buying things ready to cook. Tom agrees with Jim: he says we never know what we're eating any more, what with sliced vegetables and packaged meat. But I've got some shopping to do. I want some green peas, runner beans and celery, but we'll get those last. Let's take one of these little carts to put the thing in and wend our way down the grocery lane.

T: What else do you want to buy?

K: Everything! But we'll draw the line at tea, sugar, butter, eggs and then the vegetables and some fruit.

(They walk round the market taking things from the open

shelves and putting them into the basket on wheels which Kitty calls a cart.)

T: That cart of yours is pretty full, isn't it? How are we going to carry it all? You can't get it into that little shopping bag you've brought.

K: Let's get into the queue at the cash desk. My shopping bag contains a rucksack which I shall take on my broad shoulders. The shopping bag will be filled with the smaller things and you'll take it to the station.

(They reach the cash desk and pay their bill.)

K: Let's go upstairs to the café and have a cup of tea before we set on our journey back. It's no use trying to get a train at this time, It'd be packed with people coming from work.

T: (looking at her watch) Why, it's nearly six o'clock! How time flies!

K: We'll just have a cup of tea and then get on our way. I don't suppose Mum and Dad will be back yet, so I'll have to get the dinner.

(They return to Woodford and the following morning they are out again. Now they are at the electrical goods department.)

K: You wanted to see some toasters, didn't you? The electrical goods are over there, see?

T: (to the salesman) May I see some electric toasters?

Salesman: Automatic, madam?

T: Of course. I need one for 127 volt mains. What's the nearest you've got?

S: 127 volts! I've never heard of such a voltage! I think we have toasters at 110 volts, you could put a small resistance in circuit and it would be all right. Madame is not English, I assume. I don't think we have your voltage in this country.

K: (imitating him) Madame is from Moscow, that's in the Soviet Union, which you probably call Russia.

T: And I want a toaster that is the very last word in technical perfection.

S: (overwhelmed) Yes, madame. This is our best model. It takes two slices and is completely automatic. You can adjust it to toast the bread exactly as you like it, from golden brown to almost black.

T: It looks nice, too. I think I'll take this one. Now show me some electric gas lighters, those that work off a battery. How long will one battery last?

S: That, of course, depends on how many times a day you light the gas. The average life of a battery is six months. You'll be able to use it for a year without buying any more batteries - there's a spare one included.

T: All right, I'll take two of those. Kitty, have you got any ideas for mother?

K: I'm full of ideas, as usual. Come over to that other counter and have a look at those mincers. (To the salesman.) Will you show us some of your suction mincers, please?

S: Would you like to see the whole range?

T: No, just a couple that are not too big and expensive.

S: This is what we usually call the standard model, the one most people like. It costs two pound ten.

K: Show us how the suction base works.

S: You turn this lever and it will hold on any smooth surface, like a plastic-topped table. There, look how firm it is.

T: And how do I get it off again?

S: you pull this lever towards you like this - it releases the suction so you can lift it off the table. We have each model in several colours. What colour would you prefer? Or perhaps you'd rather have a white base?

T: Yes, I think I'll take the white one.

(They pay the bill, take their purchases, and leave the shop. They walk down Tottenham Court Road, turn right into Oxford Street and make for Marks and Spencer's.)

T: What a huge place! And so few people here. D'you know your way about, Kitty? Let's start with your stockings and whatever else you want.

K: You don't have to know your way. There's a sign hanging over every one of these counter islands. Look - scarves, stockings, bras, lingerie. Here's the stocking counter as you've probably guessed from this beauty chorus.

(Pointing to a long row of dummy legs on each of which is a different stocking.) I'm just getting half a dozen pairs of 15 dernier full-fashioned for myself, and some 30 dernier crepe nylons for mother. What are you interested in?

T: I want fancy stockings for presents - and for myself as well... Let's walk along and look at the cards. Perhaps I should buy some coloured stockings in crepe nylon ...

K: Don't. They're going out. Except black, that is. The best thing to take with you as presents are these diamond weave and lace weave affairs. They come in black and in brown. They're still fashionable and everybody says they're going to last.

T: What ought I to take mother?

K: Some stretch nylons would be just the thing but they're very expensive. But why take her stockings? We'll order what we want here, let the girl put the things in a carrier bag and we can go along to the scarf counter. If I were you I'd buy your mother a mohair stole.

T: That's an idea. (To salesgirl.) May I see one of those stoles, please. (Feeling it.) It's lovely and soft, I hope it's really warm. How much does this one cost?

Salesgirl: Nineteen and eleven.

T: Another one of those funny prices. Nineteen shillings and elevenpence, just a penny short of a pound. Why couldn't they just make it a pound?

K: For the same reason that my stockings at five and eleven weren't priced six shillings. The customer's attention is supposed to be concentrated on the shillings and not on the pence so that the things sound cheaper.

T: It seems the other way round to me. Look at this label - four figures instead of one! How can people think the things are cheaper?

- K: They don't really, it's just a tradition.
- T: (To the salesgirl.) Wrap it up, please. (To Kitty.) Let's go over there, Kitty, that looks like an interesting counter. Swimwear, beachwear - I like those fancy words.
- K: They belong to the shops. But let's have a look at this year's designs. (To the salesgirl.) May we have a look at some of your swimsuits, please.
- S: They cover a fair range of sizes, say 34 to 38, or 36 to 40. This year's style is the scoop, like this one; it's a one-piece swimsuit with the sides scooped out. Or this one with the scoop in front, you can lace it up as much as you like or as little as you like.
- K: I can't understand why these have been so much scooped out. If a woman wants as little on as possible for bathing, and I certainly do, why doesn't she go in for a two-piece?
- S: We've been told that girls who like to swim feel safer if the two pieces are attached. But I think it's just for the sake of change.
- K: I don't believe it. I think they want a crazy tan pattern on their skins. I'll take the bikini with the red and yellow pattern and that beach jacket to match. What about you, Tanya? Do you need anything here?
- T: I'm interested in these fancy bathing caps. I want one of those in two colours; may I look at that one with the scalloped edge and the flowers on it. How much does it cost?
- S: These are expensive, madam. This one costs fifteen and six. And this lovely cap in four colours costs thirty shillings.
- T: That's too expensive for a bathing cap. I think I'll take the scalloped one with the pompon on top. How much was that one, now?
- S: Seventeen and six.
- T: Before we leave here let's go to the counter for men's socks. I'd like to buy my old man a couple of pairs.

K: And I mine. As soon as we've got them we'd better wend our way to Greek Street and our possibly irate husbands. With a little bit of luck we'll just make it.

1. Make up detailed questions on the text and ask your course-mates to answer them.
2. Think of an ending to the text. Where might the ladies meet their husbands? What might they talk about?
3. Pick out all the idiomatic expressions in the text. Give their Estonian equivalents.

The Male Aspect of Shopping

(As Kitty and Tatyana get off the train, Fred and Tom put away their newspapers.)

F: Now the girls have left, I can tell you what's on my mind. You see these shoes I'm wearing? It's the only pair I brought with me. Tanya hasn't noticed it yet, but sooner or later she's bound to. I don't like having to admit it, because we got all our things together a couple of days before we left and decided exactly what we were going to take with us. I don't know how I managed it, but the night before we left I packed the bags myself, put my slippers in and left the other pair of shoes in the wardrobe. I'll have to buy myself another pair of shoes, lighter than these, and I need a pair of good walking sandals, too. Can you suggest where we might go?

T: If I'd known before we could have gone with the girls as far as Tottenham Court Road Station. Where are we now? We'd better get out at the next stop, that'll be Aldwych, and walk down the Strand. There's bound to be a good shoe-shop somewhere along there. Here's where we get out. If we walk down the Strand towards Charing Cross, we'll probably find some thing. I imagine Tanya must have slipped away on the quiet with Kitty for something she's forgotten, too.

- F: I don't think so. She's keen on buying souvenirs ...
- T: She won't find anything I'm afraid. The junk made as souvenirs isn't worth buying as a rule. You have to search high and low for worthwhile things with a London flavour.
- F: Well, she'll buy some little presents that will do as well. When you go abroad everybody seems to expect you to bring something back. If I were to buy something for everybody I know I'd need to be a millionaire.
- T: I've got an idea for you. Take a look at the socks available in London. Find some that are quite different from anything you have in Moscow and your pals will all be pleased.
- F: That seems to make sense.
- T: Of course, it does. People are the same everywhere whether they're English or Russian, French or Japanese. I imagine all the boys in Woodford have seen Jack's "Russian watch" by now. Won't your young men be the same about "English socks" or "English scarves"?
- F: I suppose there's something in what you say, but my idea of a souvenir is something perhaps ornamental but quite useless. I know that people who come to Moscow from abroad are all anxious to buy our souvenirs, expensive as they are.
- T: Well, if they're anything like the things you've given us at various times they're works of art. Let's go in here.
- F: (to salesman) I'd like to see some light shoes.
- Salesman: What size, sir?
- F: I'm not sure, either nine or nine-and-a-half.
- S: (pointing to an armchair) If you'll sit down, sir, and take your left shoe off, I'll measure your foot. Thank you. Yes, my measure says nine-and-a-half, medium fitting. What sort of light shoe do you want? Pumps?
- F: No, not pumps; just a light shoe.
- S: (taking down several boxes from the shelves and opening them one by one). Here's an excellent shoe, sir, made by Barret's, one of the most famous firms in Britain. Then there's this two colour black and white shoe.

F: I'll try on this one.

S: Let me put it on for you.

F: This one's a bit too big. Let me try one in a smaller fitting.

S: Perhaps you'd better try a slightly narrower one. Here's one of the same model.

F: That's better. I think I'll take this pair. Now please show me some decent sandals not too beatnik, though, something a respectable citizen can wear.

S: Here is an excellent line we've been selling a lot of this spring. They're very plain, but they have good leather soles and will give you excellent service if you're a walker.

T: How are they, Fred? All right?

F: They're just a wee bit tight, but I don't think I'll take anything bigger; sandals always stretch. Now I want to look at some socks, please.

S: The socks are in a different department, sir, upstairs. Will you pay for the shoes now, please?

F: Who do I pay? You?

S: Yes, sir. (Handing him a bill.) Six pound fifteen. You'll find accessories on the first floor.

T: Let's go and have a look at the socks, although it's the first time that I've heard that socks are accessory to shoes.

F: If this were a hosier's the shoes would probably be accessory to the socks. It all depends on how you look at it. My God, look at that rainbow display of socks. I wonder if they've got anything here that you can wear. (To the salesgirl at the sock counter.) Will you please show me something modest in the way of socks.

Salesgirl: What size, sir?

F: I take a nine-and-a-half shoes, as I've just discovered

...

S: Size ten and a half. These are all self-colours. If you look along the counter you'll see plenty with clocks, grey, brown, blue and black, since you ask for modest socks.

F: You sound as though you don't like such dull socks.

S: Believe me, if you stood behind this counter for just one day looking at nothing but socks for eight hours at a stretch you wouldn't be able to look a sock in the face, whatever colour it was. (Remembering her duty.) What would you prefer, sir, black, blue or grey?

F: Now you're talking. Show me some of each, please. These are rather nice, aren't they, Tom? It's no use asking Mary Ann, she's got a grudge against socks.

S: (laughing) It's Sally, if you must know.

F: (selecting some socks) Here you are, half-a-dozen pairs. You see what a good customer I am? How much do I owe you?

S: They're five and six a pair. Thirty three shillings, please.

F: That's that. Now, can you tell me where there's another pretty young lady selling sweaters?

S: I can tell you where there's a young lady selling pretty sweaters, if that will do. Through that door and on the left.

T: Isn't she a cat? This seems to be the sweater department with a cute young red-head in attendance. What are you looking for? Something for yourself or for a present?

F: It's for a present, and I want one of those heavy rain-bow. It's for our design bureau's skiing champion. Look, that's the sort of thing hanging up at the back. Would you mind showing me that sweater, please, miss?

S: This one?

F: No, the one with the bright colours.

S: Is it for yourself?

F: No, why?

S: What size do you need? This one would be too big for you.

F: Good, it's for someone bigger than me. How much is it?

S: It's rather expensive. These sweaters are imported from Norway: they're hand-knitted. This one costs eight guineas. (Noticing the expression on Fred's face.) Perhaps you'd like to see something else? We've nothing as good as that, though.

F: What d'you think, Tom, isn't it a lot of money to pay for a sweater?

T: It is, but it's good value. Those things wear for years and the colours never fade. If you haven't got enough money on you, I can lend you some.

F: All right, miss, I'll take it. Can you wrap these socks and sweater up together, please? I'm going to be pretty heavily loaded.

S: You can leave the parcels here and call back for them at any time before five. Or, if you like we could deliver them for you.

F: That's very kind of you, Miss Ginger, but we don't live near enough for that. If I could leave the parcel here till after lunch, I should be very grateful.

S: Just leave them with me and call back later.

F: That's wonderful.

S: Don't mention it.

T: Now we've got rid of your purchases let's start on the book browserie. We'd better try Charing Cross Road first; then it won't be far to come back for the parcels.

(They spend two hours in various bookshops and eventually arrive at the Au Chat Noir Restaurant exactly at two o'clock. Tatyana and Kitty have arrived about two minutes earlier.)

1. Retell the men's shopping tour from the salesman's (sales-girl's) point of view.
2. Pick out all the idiomatic expressions in the text and translate them into Estonian.
3. Make up a dialogue between the two salesgirls in the shop. They discuss their customers.
4. Act as a guide in a department store. You are showing around a group of foreign tourists.

A Shopping Tour

... It was agreed that I would buy enough food to last us for the rest of the week. The country stores stocked almost nothing in the way of fresh meat or produce, and my mother promised that she would buy some food for us each week and send it down with my father, who always spent his week-ends at the place.

Until I set out for the super-market that day, my shopping experience had been limited to the purchase of an occasional loaf of pumpernickel or the sort of cheese that no one in the family would eat except me. But now I found myself in a jungle of boxes, cans, bottles, steaks, and bolognas. I knew immediately that I was in trouble. Not only was I ignorant of what to buy, but also of how much - and I didn't know how to cook anything, anyway.

The children began to stack up my shopping cart with cereal - choosing only the kind with their favourite comic characters on the box - and quantities of peanut butter, cookies, jam, potato chips, and fruit juice. In the process, Janie upset one of those pyramids of eggs, and so I found myself buying three dozen eggs, more or less damaged. The only things I could find at the meat counter that I could cook were hot dogs and hamburger.

Then I started to wonder where the vitamins were coming from, so I wandered over to the vegetable department and began to fill a bag with spinach. But although I put as much in the bag as I thought we could eat, it weighed just half a pound, and I began to wonder. Turning to a lady shopper, I asked how much spinach it took to feed four or five people.

"You'd better get a bigger bag", she said. "It'll take two or three times as much as you have there."

"That looks like a lot," I said to her, when I had filled a bag.

"It shrinks," she explained.

My eyes falling on green beans next, I got another bag the same size and started to work filling it. By now the

helpful lady had moved on, so I couldn't ask her, when I had filled the sack, whether five pounds of green beans was too much. I guessed they would probably shrink too, with the strings taken off. Finally we had everything and I staggered to the counter with my burden. The clerk whistled happily and the cash register began to whirl with a fury that made the store manager rub his hands with satisfaction.

"That'll be eighteen dollars and seventy-five cents," said the clerk.

1. Make up questions on the text and let your course mates answer them.
2. Discuss the shopping tour from the point of one of the children.
3. Have a debate on the following topics:
 - a) Women are better shoppers than men.
 - b) Window-shopping is great fun.
 - c) Shoplifters have it easier now in supermarkets.
 - c) A salesman's job is a very interesting one.
 - e) A salesman's job is a very exhausting one.

Street Markets and Supermarkets

A = student; B = teacher of English

A: I went to a street market the other day and as I wandered round I tried to translate what I saw into English, and found in many cases I couldn't.

B: Let's have a session on market and shopping vocabulary, then. I suppose most people go to a street market hoping to pick up a bargain.

A: If something's being sold very cheaply, what expression do you use?

B: Well, there're several, it was going for a song, is a good one.

A: And what about the way the stallholders persuade people to buy things?

- B: Well, some of them have a brilliant sales patter and could sell anything. When they're shouting their wares and the crowd are believing every word, say he had the crowd eating out of his hand.
- A: And what about when the stallholders do strange things to attract attention, like wearing medieval costumes and things like that.
- B: Anything strange used to sell is a sales gimmick. If a stallholder is very entertaining and clever say he was a treat to watch.
- A: That means it was a pleasure to watch him?
- B: Yes. If the sales performance is perfect, the obvious result of lots of experience, say he'd got it down to a fine art.
- A: Obviously a stallholder of that type would be busy.
- B: Yes. Let's say he was selling clothesbrushes, and he was selling a lot of them, you could use he was doing a brisk trade in clothes-brushes. If people were buying lots, you could say the clothes-brushes were selling like hot cakes. If he's not very busy, say business was slack.
- A: Suppose you argue about the price and try and get it reduced.
- B: Well, you bargain with him over the price, or even better, you haggle with him about the price. If you succeed, use to knock down.
- A: That's what happened to me. I haggled over the price of a suede jacket and knocked the stallholder down from 30 to 21.
- B: Quite a bargain.
- A: And how d'you describe it if he refuses to lower the price?
- B: Say he wouldn't budge.
- A: Suppose you buy something that's of low quality?
- B: Use the adjective shoddy, or the noun junk. The basic meaning of junk is cheap inferior second-hand goods, but it can be used for shoddy new goods too. Mind you, sometimes when people are browsing round a junk shop they

come across something really valuable - pick up a bargain.

A: What do you call a market where everything's second-hand?

B: A flea-market.

A: I see. What about some of the sights and sounds of a market?

B: Well, a good expression for the noise and movement is the hustle-and-bustle of a market. Markets are often crowded, so you edge your way through the crowd or squeeze past people. When people are searching through a pile of clothes or something like that, use to rummage through.

A: And how would you describe the voices of the stallholders?

B: If it's a high-pitched woman's voice say she was shouting in a shrill voice. Men stallholders bellow and shout themselves hoarse. Anyway, they all have penetrating voices or voices that carry far as they sell their wares or goods.

A: Some of them are really loud, aren't they?

B: They certainly are, a voice like a foghorn.

A: Stallholders very often use the goods they're selling to show how good they are.

B: Say he gave a practical demonstration. I always find that when I get home the thing never works as well as it did in the demonstration.

A: Yes, me too.

B: The crowd of course are all on the look-out for a bargain, so the seller has an easy task. Some of them are born salesmen; they know more about human psychology than most psychologists.

A: Yes. I admire them anyway, in fact I think street-markets are much more interesting than supermarkets. Could we move on to supermarkets and some words and expressions connected with them?

- B: Yes, of course. I suppose one of the things which strikes you in a supermarket is that so many things are pre-packed. All you do is wheel your trolley round and choose what you want.
- A: The atmosphere in supermarkets is sometimes very cold and efficient, isn't it?
- B: Yes, say they have a clinical atmosphere. Mind you, they do make shopping very easy.
- A: Yes, they're a great advantage to housewives.
- B: They're a boon to housewives, a boon is a blessing, something of great help.
- A: A lot of them are very cheap.
- B: That's because the owners can buy in bulk, and they can then pass the saving on to the consumer. Consumer is a word for people who buy. Supermarkets also have a rapid turnover of goods, so usually the goods are fresh.
- A: What about all the sales gimmicks in supermarkets.
- B: Well, you usually get trading stamps, then you get cut-price offers and bargain offers.
- A: Some of the language is very exaggerated, isn't it?
- B: Oh yes, you get posters saying prices slashed, unbeatable offer and so on, but that's all part of the game.
- A: The atmosphere in a supermarket's very good for buying, isn't it?
- B: Oh yes, very conducive to buying, especially when there's pipéd music producing a soothing atmosphere. I mean, how can you resist buying more than you need and everything's so temptingly displayed.
- A: Resist is followed by ing, is it?
- B: Yes. There's also a phrase, sales resistance. This is used to refer to the public disliking some particular product or sales technique and refusing to buy.
- A: How would you describe the way people pay in a supermarket?
- B: Well, the cashier knows how much each item costs from the price tag - that's the little piece of paper with the price on it. She then rings up the price of each item on

the cash register. Then she presses a button, there's a whirring noise and the total amount goes up. You then get your change from an automatic change dispenser.

A: And what about the appearance of a supermarket?

B: Well, where everything is arranged, and where the shelves are, etc. is called the lay-out. I believe the lay-out is very important. Then the shelves are stacked or piled high with goods. The food counter ought to be spotlessly clean if the standard of hygiene is high. Then there's the frozen-food cabinet.

A: There's a special word for stealing from shops, isn't there?

B: Yes. To shoplift. Shoplifting. Shoplifting costs supermarkets a lot of money. The attractive lay-out seems to turn people into shoplifters. Some supermarkets have closed-circuit television to try to prevent shoplifting.

A: Well, there's so much to choose from. I'm not surprised people are sometimes tempted.

B: Yes, they offer a wide range of goods.

A: Everything's so nicely packed too.

B: Yes, the packaging of goods is very important.

A: Can't it sometimes give the wrong impression?

B: Well, perhaps, but, under the Trade Descriptions Act, what's on the packet must be accurate.

A: What about the effect of supermarkets on small shops?

B: Well, obviously many supermarkets are squeezing out the small shopkeeper, who's facing fierce competition and sometimes finds it difficult to cover his overheads - overheads are the expenses, and the bills and rent. However, the small shopkeeper can offer the personal touch.

A: What about these huge supermarkets they're building outside towns?

B: They're called hypermarkets. You have to have a car of course. It'll be interesting to see if they catch on, that is whether they become popular or not.

A: Many supermarkets nowadays are owned by the same firm, aren't they?

B: Yes, what's called a chain of supermarkets. All these chains compete with one another, so the public should get value for money. A good verb for comparing prices first and then buying is to shop around.

A: Yes, it always pays to shop around, you can save a lot of money that way. Getting back to the small shopkeeper and the personal touch, can you give me a few words for how you're served in shops or supermarkets?

B: Well, if the service is indifferent, you know, when there's a queue and the shop assistants just look at you and carry on talking, say that they have "a take-it or leave-it attitude" or "they couldn't care less". If the service is perfect just say that you get perfect service. If there aren't enough assistants because they can't find any, say they're short of staff, short-staffed or they can't get the staff.

A: How does one describe some of the aspects of buying and selling, the original price and the shop price, for instance?

B: Well, the original price, the one where you buy in bulk, is the wholesale price. The price in the shop is the retail price. The amount of profit is the profit margin. When a company introduces a new product, they launch the product on the market. They hope it will become a best-selling line.

A: A line?

B: Yes, that means any one particular product. In England, for instance, a best-selling line is baked beans.

A: Well, after all that, how about paying a visit to a pub and trying one of their best-selling lines, a pint of draught bitter?

B: Good idea, and we certainly don't need any piped music or packaging to persuade us to buy that product.

1. Make up sentences of your own with market and shopping vocabulary.

2. Learn by heart fragments of the above dialogue and act them out.
3. Describe your own supermarket tour.
4. Describe your local supermarket.
5. Describe a scene you saw when a shoplifter was caught by the shop-assistant (shopwalker).
6. You bought some shoddy goods. Now the first thing you do is go back to the shop and have them exchanged for those of better quality.
7. Have a debate on the advantages and disadvantages of supermarkets.

"Fast" Sales Talk

(Barbara goes to the door to be confronted by a salesman.)

S: Good morning, madam. If I could just take up a moment of your time. I've got a proposition that I'm sure will interest you.

B: Well, I'm rather busy.

S: Yes, but the whole basis of what I'm proposing to you, is to make you less busy. Perhaps not immediately, but in the long run.

B: But -

S: Just a moment of your time now, and it may save you days of work.

B: What is it, then?

S: Madam, have you ever thought about your pipes?

B: Pipes. How d'you mean?

S: Well, pipes go everywhere, don't they? Through walls, under the floor, over ceilings. Everywhere in a house there are pipes.

B: Well, yes, I suppose there are.

S: And have you ever thought about how little by little, those pipes get clogged up? Thousands of cubic centimetres leaves a little deposit, a little smear. Until finally the day comes when no water flows at all!

- : I suppose so.
- S: Now, all over the world, other housewives forget about their pipes. And what has been the result? Impure water.
- B: I suppose it is a little worrying.
- S: But now a new era has dawned! Thanks to Franco's Flush Fast Water Mixture. Our new invention has made clogged pipes a thing of the past. You no longer need to turn on a tap with the hidden worry, "Will the water flow or will it not?"
- By administering Franco's to your water-tank at regular intervals you can be assured of a clean system.
- B: Yes. Perhaps.
- S: And all it costs you is two pounds for a whole case of Franco's Flush Fast Water Mixture. A dozen of sky-blue containers set in a cream plastic case with two pages of clear instructions on how Franco's Flush Fast Water Mixture should be used.
- B: It sounds a good idea.
- S: Only two pounds! A real bargain!
- B: Yes, two pounds. Here you are!
- S: Thank you, madam. And here's your specially designed cream plastic case. I'm sure you'll never regret it. Good luck, madam. You deserve it. I envy you the thrill of feeling that your pipes are clean at last!

Comprehension Exercise

1. Explain the meaning of 'fast' sales talk.
2. Why doesn't Barbara want to talk to the salesman?
3. How does the salesman propose to help Barbara?
4. What sort of pipes is the salesman referring to?
5. What happens to these pipes?
6. What do dirty pipes produce?
7. How does the salesman say clogged pipes can be cured?
8. How is his product applied?
9. How is it packed?
10. What do you think persuades Barbara to buy the product?
11. Do you approve of her purchase?
12. How would you have acted in her place?

Tell your friend about the conversation between Barbara and the salesman. Recommend her to go and buy the same product.

V o c a b u l a r y

Retail and Service Shops

an antique shop, an art shop, a baker's, a butcher's, a chemist's, a confectioner's, a draper's, a druggist's, a fish-and chip-shop, a fishmonger's, a florist's, a fruiterer's, a furniture shop, a general store, a grocer's, a greengrocer's, a haberdasher's, an ironmonger's, a jeweller's, a man's out-fitter's, a newsagent's, an off-licence (a wine-shop), an optician's, a pet shop (animals, birds), a radio shop, a record shop, a second-hand shop, a shoe shop, a sports shop, a stationer's, a sweet-shop, a tobacconist's, a toy-shop, a co-operative store, a department store, a multiple store, a chain store, a supermarket, a mobile shop

At the Grocer's

eggs, butter, margarine, bacon, ham, lard, cheese, sugar, tea, biscuits, rolls, flour, vinegar, washing powder, detergents, peas (frozen dried), oxtail soup (in packages), pepper, pickles, gherkins, jam, marmalade, honey, condensed milk, toilet soap, toothpaste, etc.

At the Greengrocer's

potatoes, peas, beans, kidney beans, leeks, sprouts, medium-sized cauliflowers, cooking apples, pears, plums, black currants, a box of dates, a packet of figs, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, apricots, oranges, lemons, mushrooms, etc.

At the Butcher's

pork, beef, veal, mutton, lamb, horsemeat, cooked meat, corned beef, boiled ham, roast pork, duck, goose, turkey, chicken, hare, venison, rabbit, pig's liver, fillet steak, rump steak, pork sausages, mince meat, forced meat, lamb cutlets, chops, etc.

At the Fishmonger's

filleted cod, haddock, plaice, halibut, smoked herring, fresh herring, kippers, eels, salmon, oysters, trout, carp, bream, burbot, pike, perch, roach, sprats, crabs, lobsters, etc.

At the Wine and Spirit Merchant's

beer (draught, bottled, canned), a can of beer, a mug of beer; wine (white, red); champagne, vermouth, port, sherry; spirits, whisky, brandy, rum, gin, vodka; liqueur, cherry brandy, apricot brandy; soft drinks, lemonade, orangeade, soda water;

At the Tobacconist's

a brand of cigarettes, a packet of cigarettes, filter cigarettes, a cigarette-holder, a cigarette-case, a lighter, a box of matches, a pipe, a tobacco pouch, an ash-tray, etc.

At the Stationer's

paper (ruled, lined, squared), a sheet of paper, carbon paper, paper clips, drawing pins, wrapping paper, brown paper, greased paper, fountain pens, bottles of ink, ball-point pens (biros), fibre- or felt-tipped pens, a (writing) pad, note-books, envelopes, plain or picture postcards, files, stamps, calendars, rulers, rubbers, a box of chalk, a pot or tube of glue, etc.

At the Draper's

textiles, fabrics, materials, woollen, silk, cotton, print, plain, striped, checked, polka dot, nylon, rayon, velvet, denim, duck, gauze, bonded materials, linen, knitted fabrics, etc.

At the Jeweler's

bracelets, rings, necklaces, ear-rings, brooches, pendants, diamonds, precious stones, beads, a string of pearls, pins,

opera-glasses, fake jewellery, cuff-links, cameo pins, sapphire clips, ivory pendants, bangles, etc.

Fashions and Clothes

Fashion is an entirely unnecessary, and yet delightful detail of human life. No one could contend that a person who did not follow the fashion was lacking in any great mental or moral quality; yet to be in the fashion has given joy in age after age, not only to the women who are thus up-to-date in their costume, but to men who behold them.

As a rule, men's attitude towards women's fashions is one of amused tolerance. They pretend that they are unable to detect the nice distinctions between the latest model from Paris and a dress that is hopelessly out of date. But they are in reality just as eager to conform to the popular idea of what is and what is not worn.

But men's fashions change slowly, and men, unlike women, like to be the last to leave an old fashion rather than the first to embrace a new. They have no desire either, that their womenfolk should be in the very front rank of fashion. It would make them embarrassed to be seen in public with a woman who was wearing something which caused everybody to look at her. But they like their wives to be dressed as most other women are dressed.

Fashion is an arbitrary mistress to whom most women are slaves, but though her mandates are often unreasonable and not seldom absurd, she is followed willingly, for the reward she offers is that sense of adventure and variety which is the spice of life.

(From 'Fifty Model Essays' by Joyce
Miller)

Mary Quant's New Collection

(Mary Quant, an international name in fashion design, presents in London her latest collection of styles for next spring and summer.)

... Mary Quant is a British fashion designer who has made a real impact on the world fashion scene. Like many other young British designers, she caters for every woman and not just for a moneyed élite. Her creations, which include cosmetics and lingerie as well as outer-wear, are on sale in sixty-seven countries around the world, proving immensely popular from France to Finland, and in the ready-to-wear market of the United States. She also exports extensively to Japan, and hopes to expand into other Asian countries.

Mary Quant believes that any woman can wear her clothes, providing that she is slim. Certainly her show of ready-made clothes which will be appearing in stores in many parts of the world this spring was very well set off by her tall slim models, including two beautiful coloured girls. But the clothes were so well cut that most of them really could be worn with pleasure by women from widely differing age groups.

Of course, some of the lighter evening creations, in shiny satin with skimpy bodices, were much more suited to young girls than to slim women, but many of the smart little suits are perfect for everyday wear, with pleated skirts ending just short of the knee, and loosely fitted jackets. She also showed some very graceful long skirts and trouser suits for the evening. The dominating colours were red, white and navy, used in a variety of combinations, some very evocative of British sailor's uniform.

The most impressive feature of the collection was the simplicity of style of the clothes, which was compensated by the striking colour combinations and the rich texture of some of the materials used. Stripes were very much in evidence, and materials like cotton, satin and crepe de Chine were effectively used.

Particularly interesting was a lightweight suit in a shaded zig-zag design of blue and white, worn with a black blouse, and a long dress with a pleated skirt, and long sleeves, in white with a small all-over design in red and navy. People will certainly be looking for these in the

spring. What is more, Mary Quant's prices are modest, and with prices like that most women could afford one or two items for their wardrobe. They would certainly enjoy wearing them.

(From BBC English, March 1972)

1. Discuss the difference in fashions between 1972 and now.
2. What are the most fashionable colours now?
3. What kind of materials are in?
4. What is the hem-line now?
5. Are mini-skirts entirely out?
6. What other internationally famous fashion designers do you know?
7. Have a debate on the advantages and disadvantages of this profession.
8. Do you approve of Mary Quant's style of clothes?
9. What kind of clothes should stout women wear?
10. Can all women wear trouser suits with equal success?
11. Name some colours that match particularly well.
12. Name some colours that do not match at all.

From Fashion Plates

1. Coat with a casual air is in off-white woolfrieze, cleverly darted at shoulder level and seamed from underarm to hip.
2. Smooth fur felt makes a hat with a deeply rounded crown, small neat brim; finished with a thin band of stitched grosgrain. It can be made to order in any colour.
3. Coarsely woven aquamarine mixture tweed takes a smooth collar and tab fastening in a darker shade of the same colour. The jacket fastens with a cleverly concealed zip.
4. Checkmating in black and white, a lightweight coat that has its own jockey cap and handbag. The coat is straight cut and foambacked to keep its shape.
5. Chequerboard look that comes from clever seaming. The sleeveless top is half white, half black, has a roll neck that shows above the black and white jacket. Trousers are all white. Three-piece in cotton satin.
6. All print: slim-shape dress, sleeveless smudgily printed

7. plain and print: the dress, a soft, muted pink with honey-brown tracings; the jacket, pink with a low V-neck, link-button fastening.
8. Navy skirt is flared, the bow-tied belt slots through the hip pockets, back and front. Sugar pink shirt with a yoked front loves casual life.
9. Candy-pink suit has a definite air of Chanel. Neatly collared jacket frog-fastens, takes four patch pockets. Leather pill-box from a selection by Dolores. Leather gloves.
10. A light grey Shetland wool dress. The deeply scooped neckline is bordered with a prettily scalloped and embroidered collar.

The Separates

The mixing and matching of separate garments to make one complete, coordinated outfit is easiest to do with plain colours that look nice together. Navy and white is an obvious combination, so is navy and red; and nothing can go wrong with black and beige, or even brown and orange.

Textured fabrics, too, can live happily with smooth, shiny silk, but much more challenging is to try and arrange the happy marriage of different patterns.

When Raindrops Fall

Considering how much rain we get in Britain, it has always surprised me that the field of mackintosh design has not been more effectively covered. Certainly, macs are now stylish, or at least some are, but on the whole they are simply unergonomic.

The traditional country approach of total water repellence, unemotional colour and style, and liberal cut of wearing over lots of tweeds is fine, still fine. It is city macs that are so unsatisfactory, offering as they do nothing between styled-up cousins of the country sort, water-thin and ice-cold shinies which split under the arms the

third time you wear them or act as a portable steam bath, or those amorphous ectoplasmic packaway jobs the earnest tourists wear. What is needed is a mac which does indeed pack away into a bag, because it rains sporadically in England, is loose enough to wear over whatever you would be wearing if it was fine, and is stylish enough to brighten a dull day. You can now get just such macs, made in very fine silky synthetic material which almost vanishes when you fold it, weighs nothing and yet can be sharply styled.

The newest fabric rainwear is coated poplin or nylon. This makes a very lightweight and soft coat and, because of its highly squashable quality, it is a perfect travelling companion.

How to Cultivate the British Look

In the past, British menswear has been respected for its high-quality cloth and tailoring, but nobody from abroad actually pretended it was fashionable. It was merely distinguished. Britain was only expected to know about sportswear and to have beautiful wools and tweeds. Now suddenly something has happened to the foreign image of British men's clothes. The British look has suddenly been given two faces. The traditional and the 'mod'. Probably the now world-famous Carnaby Street fashion could never have acquired such prestige if it had not been as a rebellion against the conservatism of Savile Row. The highly respectable Savile Row tailors may not admit to being influenced by 'mod' excesses, but Carnaby Street fashions have certainly given a new 'chic' look to traditional British styling.

The success of men's 'ready to wear' clothes has been established and now many countries are buying British ready-made menswear with enthusiasm. The problem is of course what to buy in order to achieve the really British look.

Here are some basic requirements:

Suits should be made of natural fibres. Jackets should be slightly waisted with almost natural shoulders, with

plenty of handstitching and a centre vent at the back. The trousers must be narrow and have no turn-ups.

British shoes are solid and made to last for years. If you buy a pair you should make sure that they never look absolutely brandnew.

Regimental ties from famous British regiments and old-school ties are very popular abroad. They sell very well in New York store. If you buy one it is advisable to avoid anyone else who may look British. British gentlemen can be very hostile to people whom they consider are usurping their rights.

It is sometimes British to look prepared for rain. The latest British answer to the weather is a pure silk black raincoat for evening rain. It also makes a smart coat for going to the theatre.

The James Bond trench coat could help to create a glamorous British image. This raincoat is recommended for attracting girls.

It is not necessary to recommend British sportswear and knitwear. These are already well known.

All Your Clothes in Your Pocket

An American firm has developed a new way of treating fabrics. The company claims that the new process allows fabrics to be compressed into small containers without being damaged in any way. You could go on holiday with all your clothes in your pocket or handbag. The firm's chemists say that the clothes would be fireproof, water-proof, and stain-proof. When you unpack them they will come out without a crease and be ready to wear.

The Look for Winter '74 and '75

This season sees the completion of the move from short to longer skirts, and from now on the uncovered knee will seem as old-fashioned as last year's taxi fare.

In this new but classic look the silhouette is length-

ened, which is done in various ways, such as dropping the hem, introducing tubular tunics and jackets over straight skirts, reviving tailored suits and bringing back the big, circular coat.

With the greatest skill, the designers have placed the swirling coat over the pencil line, and introduced a new way with fullness. For example, full skirts are cut on the bias, which means that they fall flat when stationary, or fullness is gathered into the waistband of a skirt dirndle style. This bulkiness is acceptable and soft looking, if you do not choose the wrong, too-heavy fabric. Big, straight overcoats are belted to keep the fullness controlled and capes are wide with graceful, highwayman collars.

Trousers are now wardrobe classic, and, for day. At night, there is the soft, wide-legged pyjama suit or cigarette-thin pants, which are worn with loose fitting jackets and delicate blouses. For day or night, it is particularly trendy to chop trouser legs off short at the angle.

Dress lengths vary, according to the time of day or personal choice, from just over the knee to the floor. Favourite evening length is above the ankle, a style we have been wearing since last winter.

As always, accessories come out strongly in support of new collections. This season is no exception and we have knee-high, high-heeled boots topping the footwear scene, with high-heeled shoes with T-bar or instep strap the most popular shoe. For the evenings, it is always sandals.

Hats are small berets in wool chenille or silky knits and long scarves are tied under the collars of coats and capes. Tights are mostly flesh-coloured, and a new addition to the layered look is the sleeveless coat, often knitted or crocheted, that is worn on top of another coat. The hand-bag of the season is a pochette.

Talking Shop in a Fashion

When a shopgirl talks shop, what does she say? Well, sometimes she talks about her customers.

Sociologists found that the shopgirls divide 96 per cent of female clothes-bargain-hunters into three main types. And they can spot them six counters away.

There is a girl who comes in wearing the current season's fashion. She wears it well. She is fairly sure of what she wants, and she is less impressed by the name of the store or the label on the goods than she is with the looks, design and cut of what she is buying.

She is the one most women would like to be - especially as most women fall into the other two categories:

The type who tends to overdress (because she is unsure of her sense of fashion), and - for the same reason - prefers pricier clothes, in the belief that if they cost a lot they must be the latest thing. She is greatly influenced by friends' advice, the name of the product and anything the assistant says.

Then there is the type who is less concerned with style than price (at the other end of the scale), how long the coat or dress will last, and whether it looks 'too young', 'too old', or 'too daring'.

The remaining four per cent? they are a mixture of the types who queue up all night to get a guinea knocked off last year's creation, and the ones who will go for anything that is different - mini, mod or topless.

What the Well-Dressed Woman Never Forgets

Dressing well involves taste, feeling and most important good common sense. The secret of being well dressed is not simply a matter of being able to afford an expensive wardrobe. Even if you have a limited budget it is possible to be dressed for almost every occasion.

You probably observe many of these basic rules without thinking about them. The first requirement, though, can be the hardest for some women: take a long, objective look at yourself. Note your good and bad features. Each woman is different in size, proportion and personality. A style that is right for one woman may be entirely wrong for another. But

clothes can be used to balance and cover figure faults.

A slim woman can wear bulky, full fabrics and styles with round, curving lines.

A heavy woman should wear smooth - but not clingy - fabrics, dark colours, conservative prints and vertical stripes.

A tall, slim woman should avoid vertical lines. She can wear big accessories and bright colours or a contrasting top and bottom.

A short woman can gain an effect of height with straight skirts, short jackets and one-colour outfits.

Hip-length separates or waistless dresses are best for shortwaisted women. Women with broad shoulders can wear full skirts. Those with narrow shoulders can use shoulder padding and fuller sleeves. Women with short necks need wide or deep necklines, collars that stand away from the throat and collarless coats.

Regardless of your size and shape, an indispensable guide to being well dressed is simplicity. Uncomplicated clothes, practical colours, a limited amount of jewelry and unpretentious accessories are suitable for almost any occasion. In your own wardrobe it is probably simple and casual clothes that have been most comfortable and flattering.

Start to organize your wardrobe by making an inventory of your clothes. Try on every garment and eliminate those which are outdated, ill-fitting or just don't suit you. Keep in mind the places you go and the things you do most often. Then plan how to fill in the gaps in your wardrobe. Study women's magazines, newspapers and store selections for fashion trends. Look for long-lasting styles and lines suited to your figure. Plan to spend the most money on clothes you will wear most often. It is usually better to buy one good dress than two inexpensive ones.

When you shop, wear the shoes and undergarments that you will wear with the dress you want. Look for the finishing touches that mean quality. These include well-made but-

tonholes and belt, seams at least one-half-inch wide and an adequate, even hem. If you are trying to match or co-ordinate colours and textures with a dress you already have, snip off a small piece of material from a seam.

Proper fit is essential to being well dressed. Be sure to look in the correct size range. When you find comfortable clothes you like, look for the same label in future shopping. The manufacturer's styles may change, but the basic measurements will usually be the same.

Test the fit by walking and sitting in the garment. The lines should be smooth, not tight. There should be no hard or sharp wrinkles and it should not bind or pinch anywhere. The collar should set properly at the neck. You should be able to move arms freely without tension across the shoulder and armholes. The sleeves must hang straight from the shoulder. If the dress has a normal waisting, it should never feel high or low. The skirt should fit smoothly without spanning or sagging. The right skirt length is currently one to two inches below your kneecap, depending on the shape of your legs, fullness of the skirt and proportion of the dress.

The Properties of Materials

Cotton - the most widely used textile fibre. It is cool and comfortable to wear. It may be washed in strong detergents. Cotton mildews easily, but this can be removed with bleach.

Flax - linen fibres come from the flax plant. Linen is one of our strongest natural fibres, having twice the strength of cotton. Linen is resistant to mildew, it is harmed by chlorine bleach. It wrinkles easily, and is often chemically treated for crease resistance.

Wool - comes from the fleece of sheep. Long wool fibres are used for worsted yarns (smoother and firmer than woollen yarns). Wool tailors well, can be well moulded into shape. Woollen things should be drycleaned. Between wearings, woollen garments should be allowed to rest for twenty-four hours

to return to shape. Before buying squeeze a woollen fabric and then release to test it for resiliency.

Silk - has been the queen of fibres for centuries. It is strong and resilient. It is moth-proof and absorbent. Perspiration, sunlight and chlorine bleaches are harmful to silk. Washable silks should be washed by hand in mild soaps.

Nylon - was the first man-made fibre. It is exceptionally strong, elastic, resistant to moth and mildew. Whether stretched or crushed, rapidly returns to its original shape. Washes easily, dries quickly and resists oily stains. It blends well with other fibres. It is heat sensitive, uncomfortable to wear in hot, humid weather. It builds up static electricity.

Bonded materials - are obtained by laminating two layers of fabric together (a new way!). Materials are first woven, knitted or felted and then placed back to back and bonded together with an adhesive. This creates a lined effect or a reversible material. There are materials like tricot backed jersey, bonded flannels and foam laminated knits.

Exercises

- I Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various fabrics (cotton, flax, wool, silk, nylon, and other man-made fabrics).
 - II Make up dialogues on various situations.
1. You have visited a fashion show (winter, autumn, spring, summer) and tell your friend about it.
 2. You have been invited to a wedding party. You ask your friend's advice on what you should wear to the party,
 3. You want to have a new (coat, dress, trouser suit, etc.) made and discuss the style with your friend.
 4. You are leaving for a longer trip. You consult your mother (friend, aunt) what clothes you should take along.
 5. You are going to a collective farm to help with the har-

vesting. You ask your course mates to help you to decide on what to take along.

6. You exchange opinions with your friends about what colours become you and your friends.
7. You are going to a fancy ball. You tell your friend about the costume you are going to wear to the ball.
8. You talk about what a lady's (a gentleman's) wardrobe should include.
9. You talk about what people should wear on various occasions.
10. You are trying on a dress at your dressmaker's. You point out to her what should be altered.

Items of Clothing

Choose the right word from the brackets.

1. They had a barbecue and ate charcoaled steaks and potatoes cooked in their (vests, jackets, shirts, coats). 2. The boss told Smith to pull his ... up because his work had fallen below standard (trousers, sleeves, jodhpurs, socks). 3. He didn't enjoy the party because he was ... by Mary and had to spend two hours listening to her telling him about the operation to have her appendix removed (shoed, buttonholed, zipped, pocketed). 4. He lost his ... at the races. He backed six losing favourites in a row (trousers, jacket, braces, shirt). 5. When I travel I like playing it off the ... and never planning anything. I just go where I feel like going at any particular moment (hat, boot, cuff, sleeve). 6. Jack's a maniac when he gets onto a motorway. He ... along at well over 100 m.p.h. He'll get caught by the police one day and be fined (belts, ties, boots, coats). 7. Smith got the ... from his job for ignoring his boss's warning to stop being lazy and inefficient (clog, shoe, boot, collar). 8. Keep this under your ... but Joan and Neil are getting married next week; they are having a secret wedding - no guests, just a couple of witnesses (sleeve, hat, buckle, anorak). 9. After waiting in the bus-queue for twenty minutes he got a bit

hot under the ... and when the bus arrived gave the conductor a piece of his mind (cap, hat, collar, coat). 10. Let's have a discussion about the generation gap today, shall we, boys? - Oh, sir, we discussed that last month, and, anyway, that subject's old ... now (stocking, shoe, hat, doublet). 11. I've got to read four Shakespeare plays for the exam, but I think I'll take a chance and not read 'Hamlet'. - If you don't read it, that's the one they'll ask a question you can bet your ... on it (jodhpurs, shirt, gloves, hat). 12. Her new knee-length boots fit her like a ... (mitten, glove, muff, gauntlet). 13. Her father tried to bring her up to respect the value of money, and told her many times not to be extravagant, but to cut her ... according to her cloth (skirt, dress, coat, blouse). 14. Her father's O.K., but he's a bit of a stuffed ... He talks a lot of pompous nonsense about young people only being interested in pop music and in their own pleasure (shoe, stocking, hat, shirt). 15. After the manager's pep-talk at half-time, the football team seemed to ... to and turned a deficit of 2-0 into a 4-2 victory (buckle, belt, hat, muff). 16. He overslept, cut himself while shaving, spilt coffee on his hand, and to ... it all he had a puncture on the way to work (cap, helmet, hat, bonnet). 17. Now you've all got the Lower Cambridge Certificate under your ... you can start studying for the Proficiency Exam (sleeves, collars, shoes, belts). 18. D'you think Smith'll pass his exam? - Not a hope! If he passes, I'll eat my ... (trousers, stockings, boots, hat). 19. He carefully took the record off the turntable, wiped it, and put it back in its ... (vest, sleeve, jacket, pocket). 20. The boss is furious with Smith. He's been late back from lunch four days running. - I wouldn't like to be in his ... (vest, slippers, trousers, shoes).

V o c a b u l a r y

1. Fabrics (fibres, textiles)

These are natural (cotton, flax, silk, wool) and man-made (artificial, synthetic). The latter include all kinds of nylon, acetate, acrylic, acrilon, orlon, glass, metallic, rubber and rayon fibres.

rayon fibres	moiré /'mwa:rei/
baize /beiz/	organdy /'ɔ:gəndi/ (organdie)
batiste /bæ'ti:st/ (cambric)	oilskin
bouclé /bu:k'lei/	poplin
broadcloth	print
brocade	rayon
calico	rubber-cloth
camel hair	sateen /sæ'ti:n/ (cotton or woollen)
canvas	satin /'sætin/ (silk material)
cheviot /'ʃevi:t/	seersucker /'si:səkə/ (crinkled)
chiffon /'ʃifən/	shantung /ʃæn'tʌŋ / (undyed silk)
chintz /tʃints/	sharkskin (for outer clothing)
corduroy /'kɔ:djurɔi/	suede cloth /sweid/
crepe /kreip/	stockinet /stɔki'net/ (knitted fabric for underclothing)
damask /'dæməsk/	taffeta /'tæfɪtə/
denim /'denim/	terry cloth (Turkish towels)
double-cloth (reversible)	ticking (for mattresses, pil- lows)
felt	tulle (tul/ (for veils, dresses)
flannel (wool)	tussah (tussore) /'tʌsə/ (coarse silk)
flannelette (cotton)	tweed (thick, soft, woollen)
fleece (thick, deep nap)	velvet
gabardine /'gæbədi:n/	velveteen
gingham /'giŋgəm/ (stripes, checks)	voile /vɔil/ (crisp, sheer)
jersey (knitted, woollen)	wool
linen	
nylon	
madras /mæ'dræs/	

worsted /'wustid/ (smooth surface)

.....

fake fur

simulated reptile

stenciled fur (calfskin
stenciled to look like
leopard)

2. Finishes (add to the aesthetic, comfort, ease-of-care or even the economic attributes of fabrics)

crease and wrinkle resistant
glazing (a shiny, slick and stiff surface)

mercerizing (for cotton, increases lustre, improves strength)

non-shrink

pre-shrunk

spot and stain resistant
non-iron

wash-and-wear (a suitable nap after laundering without ironing)

water-repellant (is not waterproof, 'breathes')

waterproof (prevents breathing)

3. Accessories and Shaping Materials

lining

interfacing (vaheriie)

interlining (for added warmth)

belting

grosgrain ribbon
/grougrein/ (to finish waistline)

binding (to finish curved edges, for trimming)

horsehair (provides hem support)

buckle

button

cord (for loops, frogs)

elastic

hooks and eyes

snaps (fasteners)

clasps

tape

.....

Decorative Trims

appliqué /æ'pli:kɛi/

beading

braid

lace edgings

ruffling (frills)

sequins /'si:kwinz/

.....

bag

beaded bag

handbag

shopping bag

string bag

vanity bag

beads

belts (leather, self-fabric)

brief-case

cane

chain

fan

girdle
gloves (kid, silk, cotton,
nylon)
mittens
handkerchief
kerchief
shawl
scarf
sunshade
umbrella (brolly)
telescopic umbrella
(collapsible)
wallet
purse
hats
caps
top-hats

Footwear

boots
high (knee-high)
bootee
brogue
galoshes (overshoes)
mule
slipper
sandals
sneakers
plimsolls
pumps

heel (high, medium,
low)
sole (rubber, crepe,
leather)
instep
welt

box-calf
canvas
fur-lined
felt
patent leather
pig-skin
reversed leather
suede (chamois, shammy)
cork-soled
rounded toe
square toe
tapered toe
down-at-heel
well-shod
cracked
scuffed

comfortable
tight
pinch
cause sore feet

bootjack
polish shoes
shoe black (polish)
shoe horn
shoe rack
break in a shoe

clog (with a wooden sole)
boots with elastic sides
wedge-heeled shoes
lace-up boots
clumpy high-heeled shoes
reinforced heels
houseabouts (for homewear)
with adjustable buckles

Sportswear

training suit
T-shirt (singlet)
bathing-suit (swim-suit)
bathing trunks
bikinis
blazer
flannels
jersey (sweater)
skiing suit
skiing boots
anorak (windcheater)
beach togs (swimwear)
sports jacket
sports shirt
tights
shorts
a one-piece bathing suit
plus-fours (golf)
sweat shirt (T-shirt)

Knitwear

yarn
needles
a cable needle
(ringvardad)
slip
cardigan
jumper
pullover
jacket
sweater
panties
scarf
shawl
underwear (undies)

Underwear (intimate clothing)

bra(brassiere) /'bræsiə/
cups of a bra
embroidered cups
shoulder straps
panty hose
panty girdle
roller-on
a slimette (for slimming)
tampoons (absorbent cotton
pads for monthly periods)
bloomers
slip (half-slip
stays (corset
stockings
pyjamas
night gown
nightshirt (nightie)
chemise / ʃi'mi:z/
shirt
drawers (longjohns) /'drɔ:z/
vest (singlet)
socks
suspenders (USA)
braces (Britain)
garters
.....

Indoor and Outdoor Wear

everyday wear (casual wear)
one's Sunday best (holiday)
informal clothes
festive clothes
readymades (off-the-peg)
tailored (tailor-made)
made to measure
sinter wear (summer, etc.)

fashionable (smart, elegant)
old-fashioned (out-of-date)
shabby (frayed, slovenly)
stylish (trendy, with-it)
durable (lasting)
unisex (for both sexes)

bathrobe (towelling robe)

blouse

breeches

cape

coat

overcoat

greatcoat

dinner jacket

tuxedo (USA)

dress

dressing gown

wrapper

quilted dressing gown

brunch coat (quilted
nylon)

fleece-lined coat

hairy sports jacket

slacks

jeans (bluejeans)

overalls

smocks

dungarees (coarse calico)

ducks (for sailors)

frock

frock-coat (old-fashioned)

morning-coat (formal)

garments

gown

knickerbockers (knickers)

suit

costume

two-piece suit

tail-coat (tails, dress-coat)

evening dress

full dress (ceremonial occasions)

raincoat

mac (mackintosh)

waterproof

see-through raincoat with a
hood

skirt

waistcoat /'weskt/

vest (USA)

uniform

civilian clothes

lounge suit

tunic

trousers

Main Parts of Articles of Clothing

armhole (tight, chafes)

bodice /'bɒdɪs/ (close-fitting,
down to the waist)

collar (high, low, round,
stand-up, stand-away, detachable,
turndown)

cuff (adjustable, close, fur,
lace)

flap (of a pocket)

fold (pleat)

hem

inset (material, lace let
into)

lapel /læ'pel/ (a continuation
of the collar)

leg (trouser leg)

lining (detachable)
neckband (of a shirt)
neckline (low, square, v-line, low)
pocket (hip, breast, side; patch, slit, slanting, inside, embroidered)
shirt-front (lace, pleated)
shoulder
sleeve (long, short, narrow, loose, puffed, cape, kimono, set-in, raglan, dolman)
waistband (of trousers, skirts)
yoke (top part of a skirt, blouse)
seam
strap
zip-fastener (zipper, zip)
side zip
front zip

Styles

a fashion plate
fashion show (parade)
fashionable (in vogue)
in (out)
all the rage
just the thing
mini- (medium, maxi) length
below the knee
ankle-length
an undatable dress
simple
hefty platforms (shoes)
long-jacketed suits
reversible wool fabrics

diamond separates (checked)
double-breasted coat
dropped waistline
pleated from the hip
hip-length boxy jacket
bright colours
pastel colours
solid colours
sporty-looking outfits
royal colours (red, white, blue)
the little black dress
the trends in fashion
synthetic fur
richly embroidered
skirts swirling round the ankles
dresses cut on the bias
fullness billowing from gathers at the yoke back
flared skirts
hip-hugging trousers
close-fitting
high-necked
latest styles in
inverted pleats
gathered
sleeves with plackets (slits)
collars (flat, rolled)
shawl collar
shirt collar
body shirt (clings to body)
unpressed pleats
box pleats
knife pleats (right to left around the body)
decorative darts (stitched on the right side)

zig-zagged edges
decorative welt seam
a sheath dress
a shift
a princess line sheath
lustrous fabrics
heavy, bulky textures
transparent textures
pile fabrics
stripes, checks, plaids,
prints
warm colours (red, orange,
yellow)
cool colours (blue, green,
violet)
polka dot
floral print
piping
vital statistics (mea-
surements)
dressmaker (tailor)
tape-line (tape-measure)
go to the tailor's for a
fitting
ribbed silk (crimplene)
crushed velvet
pure wool
colours (dull, subdued,
quiet, loud, garish)
dotted fabrics
subtle hues
navy blue
emerald green
hot pink
crimson (scarlet)

Ornamental Things

jewellery
bracelet

necklace
brooch
pendant
ear-ring
dangling ear-rings
bangle
pin
beads
pearls
ivory pendants
cuff-links
stud
kerchiefs
sequins
mother-of-pearl buttons
ribbons
bands
trimmings
piping
embroidery
lace
rings (diamond, gold, ruby)
handkerchiefs
a cameo pin
a sapphire clip (ear-ring)

Furs

astrakhan / *ə'strækən*/
beaver
blue fox
ermine
fox
long-haired fox
goatskin
marten
mink
otter

Persian lamb
polecat
ponyskin
sable
sheepskin
silver fox
squirrel
synthetic fur

Supplementary Words
(Phrases)

be measured for
have something altered
retain shape

what size do you take in?
dressed warmly (bundled up)
dressed thinly (lightly)
change into (a suit)
be in one's shirt-sleeves
become (go well with, suit)
a button comes off (dangles)
do (undo) one's coat
something sits well (badly)
dyes (washes, wears) well
outgrow one's clothes
colours run (fade, are fast)
show signs of wear
frayed at the edges

.....

Sources Used:

1. B.L. Cooper and B.G. Rubalsky "An Advanced Course of Everyday English", Moscow 1959
2. E.Y. Grossman and E.L. Krichevskaya "Five Everyday Topics", Moscow 1961
3. G. Hanna "Modernize Your English", Moscow 1968
4. A.S. Hornby "The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English", London 1967
5. Patrick M. Plant "Everyday English", Leipzig 1973
6. BBC English by Radio and Television, London 1971, 1972
7. The New Zealand Woman's Weekly, Oct. 1972
8. Vogue, Feb. 1962, London, 1962

C O N T E N T S

	Pages
Preface	
HOME LIFE	5
Housing in Britain	5
A Spot of Gardening	7
The Strange Case of the Dancing Dustman	10
Ann and the New Sink	10
Short Dialogues	13-16
Vocabulary	17
MEATS	19
Grandfather and the Conger Soup	19
Taste	21
Recipes	24
The Au-Pair Girl in Britain	25
Vocabulary	30
SHOPPING	32
Hire-Purchase	32
A Shopping Tour	34
Why Can't She Make Up Her Mind?	35
The Feminine Aspect of Shopping	36
The Male Aspect of Shopping	41
Street Markets and Supermarkets	47
'Fast' Sales Talk	53
Vocabulary	55
FASHIONS AND CLOTHES	57
Mary Quant's New Collection	57
From Fashion Plates	59
Talking Shop in a Fashion	63
What the Well-Dressed Woman Never Forgets ..	64
The Properties of Materials	66
Vocabulary	70
Sources Used	71

УПРАЖНЕНИЯ ДЛЯ БЕСЕД I. Составитель Аманда К р и й т.
На английском языке. Тартуский государственный универ-
ситет. ЭССР, г. Тарту, ул. Оликооли, 18.
Vastutav toimetaja H. Susi. Paljundamisele antud 15. 09.
1976. Trükipaber 30x42 1/4. Trükipoognaid 5,0. Ting-
trükipoognaid 4,65. Arvestuspoognaid 3,82. Trükiarv 500.
TRÜ trukikoda, ENSV, Tartu, Palseni t. 14. Tell.nr.1076.
Hind 12 kop.