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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/08/15

## A visit to a DIY superstore

Today, let's talk about DIY superstores. Firstly, before you ask – 'DIY' means 'Do It Yourself'!

In the UK these huge DIY superstores have generally replaced the old fashioned ironmonger stores. These days such shops are very rare to find. The odd one or two still exist. Those that do are worth their weight in gold. Many have closed because of superstores offering so much more.

What can you buy in a DIY superstore? These days practically everything! This includes paint, wood, storage boxes, glue, nails and screws, ladders, light bulbs, lights and cleaning materials.

Stores offer a vast range of different tools, for example, screwdrivers, hammers and drills, as well as toolboxes. You can even buy bedroom furniture like wardrobes and drawers, as well as bathroom fittings; like baths, showers, washbasins and toilets.

DIY stores sell garden furniture, indoor and outdoor plants, sheds, paving slabs, and different types of fencing. They also sell lawnmowers and plastic bubble-wrap for greenhouses. Some even offer their customers a coffee shop to stop off at.

The difference between an ironmongers and a DIY shop is that in the old days you could go into an ironmongers and buy one nail. These days in a big DIY store you have to buy a packet of ten.

The trend in the UK currently is that stores are pushing customers to use self-service pay terminals. It saves on the employment bill but many customers dislike the practice.

These days many people go to DIY superstores in their car. Easy parking makes it attractive for shoppers to pop in. Stores tend to be busier at weekends when most of their customers are not working. Some stores employ older people, which in this day and age is good.

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

What does DIY mean? What is a DIY superstore? Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) What does DIY mean?
- 2) What is an ironmongers?
- 3) What is a toilet?
- 4) What is a drill?
- 5) What is a nail?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Some stores employ who?
- 2) What is the trend in the UK?
- 3) What is bubble-wrap?
- 4) What is a lawnmower?
- 5) What is a ladder?

**Category: Lifestyle / Shopping / DIY**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

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### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can about '**DIY**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of the names of three DIY stores in your town/city. Write them below. Discuss together! Which is best? Why?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Now think of** three things *you* might buy in a DIY superstore. Discuss together.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to hear their findings.

### SPEAKING - GAME

*In class* – Form a circle – Take it in turns going in a clockwise direction...say the following...

*I went to a DIY superstore and I bought...*

Repeat what was last bought. Forget anything and you are eliminated! The winner is the last person still in the game. *10 mins.*

**The teacher** will keep a watchful eye on the game!

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) When did you last visit a DIY store?
- 3) What do you normally buy in a DIY superstore?
- 4) When did you last visit an ironmonger's store?
- 5) Why do you visit DIY superstores?
- 6) Which is your favourite DIY superstore? Why?
- 7) Which DIY superstore do you dislike? Why?
- 8) How do you get to a DIY superstore?
- 9) Give an example of something you bought in one DIY shop but couldn't buy in another.
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio. Today's interview is: *A visit to a DIY superstore.*

- 1) A customer of a DIY store.
- 2) A DIY superstore manager.
- 3) A shopper.
- 4) A retired ironmonger.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs* - *Student A* is a news reporter in your town/city. *Student B* is someone who is visiting a DIY shop. *Student A* interviews *Student B*. *3 mins.*

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

*In pairs* - *Student A* is seeking directions to a DIY superstore. Which form of transport will you take? *Student B* is able to assist. *2 mins.*

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

*Discuss the following...*

A visit to a DIY superstore

**The teacher** can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Do you ever stop and take a coffee at a DIY superstore?
- 3) What is the biggest thing you ever bought at a DIY superstore?
- 4) What is the smallest item you ever bought at a DIY superstore?
- 5) How helpful is the staff at your local DIY store?
- 6) Have you ever had any bad experiences at your local DIY store? Explain!
- 7) What makes a good DIY shop?
- 8) Is there strong competition from competitors to your local DIY store?
- 9) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**A visit to a DIY superstore**

Today, let's talk about DIY superstores. Firstly, before you ask – 'DIY' means 'Do It Yourself'!

In the UK these huge DIY (1)\_\_\_ have generally replaced the old fashioned (2)\_\_\_ stores. These days such shops are very (3)\_\_\_ to find. The odd one or two still exist. Those that do are worth their weight in gold. Many have closed because of superstores offering so much more.

What can you buy in a DIY superstore? These days practically everything! This includes (4)\_\_\_, wood, storage boxes, glue, nails and screws, ladders, (5)\_\_\_, lights and cleaning materials. Stores offer a (6)\_\_\_ range of different tools, for example, screwdrivers, (7)\_\_\_ and drills, as well as toolboxes. You can even buy bedroom furniture like wardrobes and drawers, as well as bathroom fittings; like baths, showers, (8)\_\_\_ and toilets.

**washbasins / superstores / hammers / vast / light bulbs / paint / rare / ironmonger**

DIY stores sell garden furniture, indoor and outdoor plants, sheds, paving slabs, and different types of fencing. They also sell (1)\_\_\_ and plastic (2)\_\_\_ for greenhouses. Some even offer their customers a coffee shop to stop off at.

The difference between an ironmongers and a (3)\_\_\_ shop is that in the old days you could go into an ironmongers and buy one (4)\_\_\_ . These days in a big DIY store you have to buy a packet of ten. The trend in the UK currently is that stores are pushing customers to use (5)\_\_\_ pay (6)\_\_\_ . It saves on the employment bill but many customers dislike the practice.

These days many people go to DIY superstores in their car. Easy parking makes it attractive for shoppers to pop in. Stores tend to be busier at weekends when most of their (7)\_\_\_ are not working. Some stores (8)\_\_\_ older people, which in this day and age is good.

**customers / terminals / nail / self-service / employ / bubble-wrap / lawnmowers / DIY**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**A visit to a DIY superstore**

Today, let's talk about DIY superstores. Firstly, before you ask – 'DIY' means 'Do It Yourself'!

In the UK these huge DIY superstores have generally replaced the old fashioned ironmonger stores. These days (1)\_\_\_ shops are (2)\_\_\_ rare to find. The odd one or two still exist. (3)\_\_\_ that do are worth their weight in gold. (4)\_\_\_ have closed because of superstores offering so (5)\_\_\_ (6)\_\_\_ .

(7)\_\_\_ can you buy in a DIY superstore? (8)\_\_\_ days practically everything! This includes paint, wood, storage boxes, glue, nails and screws, ladders, light bulbs, lights and cleaning materials. Stores offer a vast range of different tools, for example, screwdrivers, hammers and drills, as well as toolboxes. You can even buy bedroom furniture like wardrobes and drawers, as well as bathroom fittings; like baths, showers, washbasins and toilets.

**very / more / many / these / much / what / such / those**

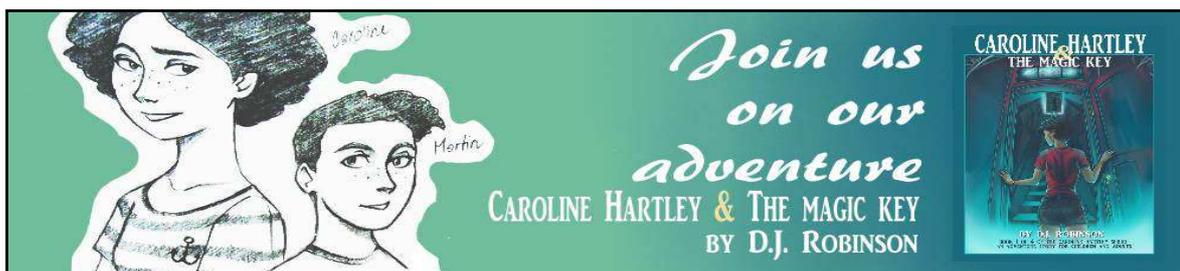
DIY stores sell garden furniture, indoor and outdoor plants, sheds, paving slabs, and different types (1)\_\_\_ fencing. They also sell lawnmowers and plastic bubble-wrap for greenhouses. Some even offer their customers a coffee shop to stop off at.

The difference between (2)\_\_\_ ironmongers and a DIY shop is that in the old days you could go into an ironmongers and buy one nail. These days in a big DIY store (3)\_\_\_ have to buy a packet of ten. (4)\_\_\_ trend in the UK currently is that stores are pushing customers to use self-service pay terminals. (5)\_\_\_ saves on the employment bill but many customers dislike the practice.

These days many people go to DIY superstores in their car. Easy parking makes it attractive (6)\_\_\_ shoppers to pop in. Stores tend to be busier at weekends when most of (7)\_\_\_ customers are not working. Some stores employ older people, which (8)\_\_\_ this day and age is good.

**in / of / an / it / you / for / their / the**

A visit to a DIY superstore – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015



**GAP FILL: LISTENING**

**A visit to a DIY superstore**

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What can you buy in a DIY superstore? These days practically everything! This includes paint, wood, storage boxes, glue, nails and screws, ladders, light bulbs, lights \_\_\_\_\_. Stores offer a vast range of different tools, for example, screwdrivers, hammers and drills, as well as toolboxes. You can even buy bedroom furniture like \_\_\_\_\_, as well as bathroom fittings; like baths, showers, washbasins and toilets.

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**WRITING/SPELLING**

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

**1) On the board** - *In pairs*, list 20 things you know about **DIY superstores**. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) A DIY superstore \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) An ironmongers store \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) These days \_\_\_\_\_

**3) In class** - Write 50 words about: **A visit to a DIY superstore**. Your work can be read out in class.

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **A visit to a DIY superstore**. Your email can be read out in class.

**SPELLING**

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) superstores
- 2) ironmonger
- 3) ladders
- 4) practically
- 5) nails
- 6) screws
- 7) washbasins
- 8) difference
- 9) could
- 10) currently

**SPELLING**

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) these
- 12) attractive
- 13) busier
- 14) firstly
- 15) rare
- 16) still
- 17) wardrobes
- 18) toilets
- 19) sheds
- 20) lawnmowers

A visit to a DIY superstore – *30<sup>th</sup> August 2015*