

VOCABULARY · EPISODE 83

Survival Kit The Supermarket

Key words & expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

1

aisle

el pasillo del supermercado · la sección del lineal**DEF**

a passage between rows of shelves in a supermarket, or rows of seats in a theatre or aircraft

Aisle is one of those words that sounds completely different from how it looks — it rhymes with 'mile' ('ILE'). Essential supermarket vocabulary: 'Which aisle is the pasta in?' Pronounced incorrectly by many learners.

ES

Un pasillo entre filas de estantes en un supermercado.

Esencial vocabulario de supermercado — suena completamente diferente de cómo se escribe (rima con 'mile').

Excuse me, which aisle are the cereals in? — One of the most useful questions in any supermarket.

Excuse me, which aisle are the cereals in? -> Perdona, ¿en qué pasillo del supermercado están los cereales?

She walked up and down every aisle twice before she found the baking section.

She walked up and down every aisle twice before she found the baking section. -> Recorrió cada sección del lineal dos veces antes de encontrar la sección de repostería.

2

self-checkout

la caja de autopago · el terminal de caja automática**DEF**

a checkout machine in a supermarket or shop that allows customers to scan and pay for their items without a cashier

Self-checkout is now standard in English-speaking supermarkets — and it produces its own vocabulary: 'unexpected item in bagging area', 'please wait for assistance'. Knowing these phrases removes the stress from a very common daily situation.

ES

Una máquina de caja en un supermercado o tienda que permite a los clientes escanear y pagar sus artículos sin cajero.

Ahora es estándar en los supermercados de habla inglesa.

Use the self-checkout if you have fewer than ten items — it's usually much faster.

Use the self-checkout if you have fewer than ten items — it's usually much faster. -> Usa la caja de autopago si tienes menos de diez artículos — suele ser mucho más rápido.

She found self-checkouts stressful at first but learned all the standard phrases and now prefers them.

She found self-checkouts stressful at first but learned all the standard phrases and now prefers them. -> Al principio le resultaba estresante el terminal de caja automática, pero aprendió todas las frases estándar y ahora lo prefiere.

3

to be on offer

estar de oferta · estar disponible a un precio reducido — en promoción o rebaja

DEF

to be available at a reduced price — on promotion or sale

On offer is the British supermarket phrase for a sale or special deal. It appears on shelf tags, promotional signs, and supermarket apps. Common types: 'buy one get one free' (BOGOF), 'two for one', 'half price', 'three for two'. For English learners shopping in UK supermarkets, recognising and understanding these promotional phrases saves money and makes shopping more efficient.

ES

Estar disponible a un precio reducido — en promoción o venta.

La frase del supermercado británico para una oferta o trato especial. Tipos comunes: 'buy one get one free', 'two for one', 'half price'.

Check what is on offer before doing your weekly shop — you can plan meals around reduced items.

Check what is on offer before doing your weekly shop — you can plan meals around reduced items. -> Comprueba qué está de oferta antes de hacer la compra semanal — puedes planificar comidas alrededor de los artículos reducidos.

She noticed the pasta was on offer at half price and bought three packs to stock up.

She noticed the pasta was on offer at half price and bought three packs to stock up. -> Notó que la pasta estaba de oferta a mitad de precio y compró tres paquetes para abastecerse.

4

to pick up

coger · tomar o recoger algo — especialmente algo pequeño o de paso

DEF

to take or collect something — especially something small, in passing, or without particular ceremony

Pick up (shopping sense) is the casual collection phrase. In supermarket English: 'I'll pick up some milk on the way home', 'Could you pick up bread while you're out?', 'I just need to pick up a few things'. It implies a quick, incidental purchase rather than a planned grocery trip. The phrase is extremely common in everyday English and worth having automatic for language learners.

ES

Tomar o recoger algo — especialmente algo pequeño, de paso o sin particular ceremonia.

La frase de recogida casual en el contexto de compras. Implica una compra rápida e incidental más que una compra planificada.

Use 'pick up' for quick incidental purchases and 'do the shopping' for a full planned trip.

Use 'pick up' for quick incidental purchases and 'do the shopping' for a full planned trip. -> Usa 'pick up' para compras incidentales rápidas y 'do the shopping' para un viaje completo planificado.

She offered to pick up some drinks from the supermarket on her way to the party.

She offered to pick up some drinks from the supermarket on her way to the party. -> Se ofreció a coger algunas bebidas del supermercado de camino a la fiesta.

the expiry date

5 la fecha de caducidad · la fecha impresa en el envase después de la cual el producto no debe usarse

DEF

the date printed on food or medicine packaging after which the product should not be used — because it may no longer be safe or effective

Expiry date is the food safety noun. In UK supermarkets, two dates are used: 'best before' (quality may decline after this date but the product is still safe) and 'use by' (food should not be eaten after this date for safety reasons). Understanding this distinction is important practical English — 'best before' is guidance; 'use by' is a safety instruction.

ES

La fecha impresa en el envase de alimentos o medicamentos después de la cual el producto no debe usarse — porque puede que ya no sea seguro o eficaz.

El sustantivo de seguridad alimentaria. En el Reino Unido: 'best before' (la calidad puede disminuir) y 'use by' (no comer después de esta fecha por seguridad).

Check the expiry date before buying anything that will not be used immediately.

Check the expiry date before buying anything that will not be used immediately. -> Comprueba la fecha de caducidad antes de comprar cualquier cosa que no se vaya a usar de inmediato.

She checked the expiry date on the yoghurt and chose the pack with the latest date to give herself more time.

She checked the expiry date on the yoghurt and chose the pack with the latest date to give herself more time. -> Comprobó la fecha de caducidad del yogur y eligió el paquete con la fecha más tardía para darse más tiempo.

to queue

6 hacer cola · esperar en una fila de personas — tomando tu turno en orden

DEF

to wait in a line of people — taking your turn in order rather than pushing ahead

Queue is the British waiting noun and verb. In British culture, queuing is taken very seriously — jumping a queue is considered extremely rude. Phrases: 'join the queue', 'queue jump', 'there's quite a queue', 'the queue is moving'. For non-British English learners, understanding the cultural weight of queuing in the UK is as important as knowing the word itself.

ES

Esperar en una fila de personas — tomando tu turno en orden en lugar de adelantarse.

El sustantivo y verbo británico de espera. En la cultura británica hacer cola se toma muy en serio — colarse en la cola se considera extremadamente grosero.

Always join the end of the queue in the UK — queue-jumping is considered genuinely offensive.

Always join the end of the queue in the UK — queue-jumping is considered genuinely offensive. -> Siempre únete al final de la cola en el Reino Unido — colarse en la cola se considera genuinamente ofensivo.

She found a long queue at every checkout and decided to use the self-service machines instead.

She found a long queue at every checkout and decided to use the self-service machines instead. -> Encontró una larga cola en cada caja y decidió usar las máquinas de autoservicio en su lugar.

a trolley

7

un carrito · una cesta grande con ruedas usada en un supermercado para llevar la compra

DEF

a large wheeled basket used in a supermarket to carry shopping — pushed by hand around the store

Trolley is the British supermarket vehicle noun (American English: 'shopping cart'). Key phrases: 'grab a trolley', 'trolley park', 'return your trolley', 'trolley coin'. Many UK supermarkets require a coin to unlock a trolley, which is returned when the trolley is replaced. For English learners, this small practical vocabulary item matters for navigating a real UK supermarket.

ES

Una cesta grande con ruedas usada en un supermercado para llevar la compra — empujada a mano por la tienda.

El sustantivo británico del supermercado (en inglés americano: 'shopping cart'). Muchos supermercados del Reino Unido requieren una moneda para desbloquear un carrito.

Use a trolley for a big weekly shop — a basket is only practical for five items or fewer.

Use a trolley for a big weekly shop — a basket is only practical for five items or fewer. -> Usa un carrito para una gran compra semanal — una cesta solo es práctica para cinco artículos o menos.

She grabbed a trolley at the entrance and worked her way methodically through the list she had prepared at home.

She grabbed a trolley at the entrance and worked her way methodically through the list she had prepared at home. -> Cogió un carrito en la entrada y avanzó metódicamente por la lista que había preparado en casa.

to do your weekly shop

8

hacer la compra semanal · completar la compra regular de comestibles planificada para la semana

DEF

to complete your regular, planned grocery shopping for the week — usually in a single supermarket trip

Do your weekly shop is the British routine shopping phrase. It describes the full planned grocery trip — as opposed to picking up a few items incidentally. For most British households, the weekly shop is a planned event: writing a list, going to the supermarket, buying everything for the week. The phrase is used as a single unit: 'I need to do my weekly shop', 'Have you done the weekly shop?'

ES

Completar la compra regular y planificada de comestibles para la semana — normalmente en una sola visita al supermercado.

La frase rutinaria de compras británica. Describe la compra completa planificada — a diferencia de coger algunos artículos incidentalmente.

Do your weekly shop with a list — it saves money, time, and reduces food waste.

Do your weekly shop with a list — it saves money, time, and reduces food waste. -> Haz la compra semanal con una lista — ahorra dinero, tiempo y reduce el desperdicio de comida.

She did her weekly shop on Saturday mornings and found that planning meals in advance made it significantly cheaper.

She did her weekly shop on Saturday mornings and found that planning meals in advance made it significantly cheaper. -> Hacía la compra semanal los sábados por la mañana y descubrió que planificar las comidas con antelación la hacía significativamente más barata.

9

loose change

el suelto · monedas pequeñas — guardadas a mano para compras menores

DEF

small coins — kept on hand for minor purchases like parking, vending machines, or small transactions

Loose change is the coins phrase. In everyday British English, 'have you got any loose change?' is a common question — whether from someone asking for charity, or you checking your own pockets before a transaction. Knowing this phrase and the related vocabulary — 'coins', 'small change', 'exact change' — is practical everyday English for navigating cash transactions.

ES

Monedas pequeñas — guardadas a mano para compras menores como aparcamiento, máquinas expendedoras o pequeñas transacciones.

La frase de las monedas. 'Have you got any loose change?' es una pregunta común en inglés cotidiano británico.

Keep some loose change in your pocket — parking meters and market stalls often do not accept cards.

Keep some loose change in your pocket — parking meters and market stalls often do not accept cards. -> Guarda algo de suelto en el bolsillo — los parquímetros y los puestos del mercado a menudo no aceptan tarjetas.

She rummaged through her bag for loose change to pay for the car park as the machine did not accept card payments.

She rummaged through her bag for loose change to pay for the car park as the machine did not accept card payments. -> Rebuscó en su bolsa el suelto para pagar el aparcamiento ya que la máquina no aceptaba pagos con tarjeta.

to scan

10

pasar por el escáner · pasar un producto por un lector de código de barras para que el sistema registre su precio

DEF

to pass a product over a barcode reader — either at a staffed checkout or a self-service machine — so the system registers its price

Scan is the checkout verb. At every modern supermarket checkout, items are scanned. At self-checkout: 'scan each item', 'the scanner did not register', 'scan your loyalty card'. Understanding the vocabulary of self-checkout — which is becoming universal — is increasingly important practical English for shopping in English-speaking countries.

ES

Pasar un producto por un lector de código de barras — ya sea en una caja con personal o en una máquina de autoservicio — para que el sistema registre su precio.

El verbo de la caja. En las cajas de autoservicio: 'scan each item', 'the scanner did not register', 'scan your loyalty card'.

Scan each item clearly and wait for the beep before placing it in the bagging area.

Scan each item clearly and wait for the beep before placing it in the bagging area. -> Pasa cada artículo claramente por el escáner y espera el pitido antes de colocarlo en el área de embolsado.

She scanned all her items without difficulty but the machine refused to accept the last one and she had to call for assistance.

She scanned all her items without difficulty but the machine refused to accept the last one and she had to call for assistance. -> Pasó todos sus artículos por el escáner sin dificultad pero la máquina se negó a aceptar el último y tuvo que llamar para pedir asistencia.