



CULTURE

ENGLISH SITUATIONS

Elementary

Situation: At the Store

Here are some sample phrases and expression you might use at a store.
When you enter the store/start a conversation with the clerk:

What a clerk might say:

May I help you?

Can I help you?

Can I help you find something?

What can I do for you?

What a customer might say:

Excuse me. Do you work here?

(Can you help me?)

Can I ask you something?

What a customer might respond:

Yes. I'm looking for _____.

Do you have any _____ (s)?

Can you tell me where the _____ is/are?

When you check out/leave the store:

Clerk:

Did you find everything you needed?

Did you find what you were looking for?

Did you find everything okay?

Will that be all (for today)?

Is that everything?

(Will there be) anything else?

Customer:

That's all for today.

That's it. Thanks.



Intermediate

Accepting and refusing

Accepting and refusing politely may depend on what you are asked. For example

Would you like some cake?

Yes, please.

Sure.

Thanks.

Okay. Thank you

No, thank you.

I'd better not.

No, but thanks for offering.

Would you like to go see a movie?

Okay. Sounds good.

Sure. I'd love to.

Yeah. Good idea

No, I'd rather not.

I'm sorry, but I can't.

No, but thanks for inviting me.

How about some more pie?

All right. Thanks

Looks good. Thanks

Don't mind if I do.

No, thanks.

I'm really full. Thanks anyway.

Looks delicious, but I'll have to pass.

How about going skiing this weekend?

Great. What time?

Sounds like fun.

All right. When and where?

Sorry. I'm busy this weekend.

I don't think I can.

How about some other time?

Advanced

Supporting Opinions

Giving your opinion

I think that . . .
I don't think that . . .
In my opinion . . .

Asking for support or details

Why do you think that?
Could you elaborate?
Could you give (me) an example?
Can you illustrate that?
What evidence do you have?
Could you explain it in more detail?
Could you provide some details?

Supporting your opinions

Let me illustrate,
For example,
For instance,
To give you an example,
Let me give you an example,
To elaborate,
First, (second), etc.
(These phrases can be followed by details, examples, elaboration, or a summary of your main points.)

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Elaborating

Asking for Elaboration

Could you elaborate (on that)?
Could you tell me a little more about it?
Could you give (me) some details?
Could you fill me in on that?
Could you expound on that?
What else can you tell us (about that)?
Is there anything else you can tell us?
Is there more to it?

Elaborating

To elaborate,
To give you more information,
Let me explain.
Let me elaborate.
Let me tell you a little more (about it).
Let me give you some details.
What's more,

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Clarifying

Clarifying your own ideas

In other words,
What I mean is . . .
What I'm trying to say is . . .
What I wanted to say was . . .
To clarify,

Asking for Clarification

What do you mean (by that)?
What are you trying to say?
What was that again?
Could you clarify that?

Clarifying another's ideas

You mean . . .
What you mean is . . .

What you're saying is . . .
(I think) what she means is . . .

What he's trying to say is . . .
If I understand you, (you're saying that . . .)
If I'm hearing you correctly,
So, you think (that) . . .
So, your idea is . . .