



A2

A2 · UNIT 1 · EPISODE 3

At the Supermarket

The one word that makes a supermarket easy, and the three questions at the register.

KEY WORDS

aisle	A long row between shelves in a store.	<i>Which aisle is the soy sauce in?</i>
Excuse me, where's the ...?	A short question to find something.	<i>Excuse me, where's the soy sauce?</i>
paper or plastic	The cashier asks what kind of bag you want.	<i>Paper or plastic? I have my own.</i>
rewards card	A store card that gives you points.	<i>Do you have a rewards card? Not today, thanks.</i>
debit or credit	The cashier asks which kind of bank card you have.	<i>Debit or credit? Credit, please.</i>
register	The place where you pay in a store.	<i>At the register, they ask three questions.</i>

THE STORY

- Nina** Hi, I'm Nina.
- Ray** And I'm Ray.
- Nina** Ray, how long do you spend in a supermarket?
- Ray** Maybe fifteen minutes.
- Nina** My first month here, I spent twenty minutes looking for soy sauce.
- Ray** Twenty minutes.
- Nina** I walked every row. Twice.
- Ray** Why didn't you ask someone?
- Nina** Because I didn't know the word for the rows.
- Ray** What is the word?
- Nina** Aisle. A-I-S-L-E. And the S is silent.
- Ray** Aisle. It doesn't look like it sounds.
- Nina** It does not. But it's the key word. Which aisle is the soy sauce in?
- Ray** Which aisle is the soy sauce in.
- Nina** Or shorter. Excuse me, where's the soy sauce?

Ray That one I can remember.

Nina Use that one. And listen for a number. They'll say aisle seven.

Ray Aisle seven. And the numbers are on the signs?

Nina Hanging above every row. Once you know the word, the whole store makes sense.

Ray Okay. What about paying?

Nina Three questions there. First: paper or plastic?

Ray That's the bag.

Nina That's the bag. Many places charge for it now, so you can say I have my own.

Ray I have my own. Second question?

Nina Do you have a rewards card? It's the store's points card.

Ray And if I don't?

Nina Not today, thanks. That's all you need.

Ray Not today, thanks. And the third?

Nina Debit or credit? It's just asking about your card.

Ray And I say credit.

Nina You say credit. Or you just tap your phone and say nothing.

Ray That is my favorite sentence today.

Nina Let's practice the hard part. I'm the worker.

Ray Excuse me, where's the milk?

Nina It's in the back, on the left.

Ray Thank you. And the bread?

Nina Aisle three.

Ray Aisle three. Got it, thank you.

Nina See? Two questions, ten seconds, and you saved twenty minutes.

Ray So — aisle is the word. Excuse me, where's the blank. And listen for the number.

Nina And at the register: paper or plastic, rewards card, debit or credit.

Ray Thanks, Nina.

Nina That's it for today. See you next time.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Where is the bread?**

- ☐ **A** In the back, on the left
- ☐ **B** Aisle three
- ☐ **C** Aisle seven

2. **"Do you have a rewards card?" You don't have one. What do you say?**

- ☐ **A** Not today, thanks.
- ☐ **B** Paper, please.
- ☐ **C** Credit.

3. **"Paper or plastic?" is a question about...**

- ☐ **A** the bag
- ☐ **B** the receipt
- ☐ **C** your card

4. **In the word "aisle", which letter is silent?**

- ☐ **A** A
- ☐ **B** S
- ☐ **C** E

5. **In her first month, how long did Nina look for soy sauce?**

- ☐ **A** Five minutes
- ☐ **B** Fifteen minutes
- ☐ **C** Twenty minutes

Shadowing tip. Pick three lines you like from the story. Say each one five times, faster each time, until it sounds natural.

ANSWER KEY

1. **B** The worker says, aisle three. The milk is in the back, on the left.
2. **A** Not today, thanks. That's all you need.
3. **A** Paper or plastic is about your shopping bag.
4. **B** Aisle sounds like I'll. The S is silent.
5. **C** "I spent twenty minutes looking for soy sauce."

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