



Title: *Buying a Hotdog*

Level: Mid-Intermediate | **Length:** 60 minutes



Section 1 – Reading Passage: Buying a Hotdog in the U.S.A.

If you visit the United States, one of the first things you'll notice is how many small transactions happen every day — from **ordering food** to **buying clothes** or even **grabbing a coffee on the go**. These small interactions are an important part of American culture.

Take the simple act of **buying a hotdog**. You walk up to a food cart, smell the grilled onions, and hear the sizzle. The vendor smiles and says, “Hey there! What can I get you today?” You might reply, “I’ll have one hotdog with mustard and onions, please.” The vendor could ask, “Would you like anything to drink?” and you might say, “A small soda, please.”

These short exchanges show several things about American English: people are usually friendly, use polite forms like “please” and “thank you,” and often add small talk — “Nice day, huh?” or “These are the best in town.” This easy, casual communication style helps transactions feel friendly, even when they’re quick.

The same polite patterns work in stores and restaurants. For example:

- **Buying clothes:** “Can I try this on?” or “Do you have this in a medium?”
- **Ordering at a café:** “I’d like a coffee to go, please.”
- **At the grocery store:** “Could you double-bag that, please?”

These phrases help learners sound natural and confident in everyday interactions. Americans value friendliness and clarity — saying what you want directly, but with a smile. Whether it’s a hotdog stand or a department store, these short conversations build confidence and connection one transaction at a time.

Section 2 – Role Play: Ordering a Hotdog

Characters: Tourist (Anna) and Vendor (Sam)

Sam: Hi there! What can I get you today?

Anna: Hi! I'll have one hotdog with ketchup and onions, please.

Sam: Sure thing. Would you like any cheese or chili on that?

Anna: No, thank you. Just the hotdog. Oh — and a small soda, please.

Sam: Got it! That'll be \$4.50.

Anna: Here you go.

Sam: Thanks! Enjoy your lunch!

Anna: Thanks, it smells amazing!

Section 3 – Vocabulary (with Definitions)

Everyday Transaction Vocabulary

1. **Vendor** — a person who sells food or goods
2. **Cart** — a small stand or vehicle used to sell food
3. **Transaction** — an exchange of goods or services for money
4. **Receipt** — a printed record of what you bought
5. **Cashier** — the person who takes payment in a store
6. **Customer** — the person buying something
7. **Change** — the money returned after paying more than the total
8. **Price tag** — a small label showing how much something costs
9. **Total** — the full amount to be paid
10. **Takeout** — food prepared to eat somewhere else

Idioms & Expressions

1. **On the go** — while moving or traveling
2. **Grab a bite** — get something quick to eat
3. **Ring it up** — process a purchase at the register
4. **Make small talk** — have light, casual conversation
5. **No problem!** — friendly way to say “you’re welcome” or “it’s okay”



Section 4 – Common Grammar Mistakes and Corrections

- **Incorrect:** I want a hotdog with mustard and onions please.
Correct: I’d like a hotdog with mustard and onions, please.
Rule: Use polite requests (“I’d like”) instead of direct commands.
- **Incorrect:** How much it cost?
Correct: How much does it cost?
Rule: Add “does” to form questions in the present tense.
- **Incorrect:** I am not have cash.
Correct: I don’t have cash.
Rule: Use “do/does” for negatives, not “am/is.”
- **Incorrect:** Can you repeat again?
Correct: Can you repeat that?
Rule: “Repeat” already means again; don’t use both.
- **Incorrect:** I want this one, please give me.
Correct: I’d like this one, please.
Rule: Drop unnecessary words for smoother, natural speech.
- **Incorrect:** I am go to buy some coffee.
Correct: I’m going to buy some coffee.
Rule: Use “going to” for future plans.
- **Incorrect:** He payed with card.
Correct: He paid with a card.
Rule: Irregular verb — past of pay is paid.

- **Incorrect:** She don't want the receipt.
Correct: She doesn't want the receipt.
Rule: Use "doesn't" with she/he/it.
- **Incorrect:** How much are costs?
Correct: How much does it cost?
Rule: Only one verb needed; "does" replaces "are."
- **Incorrect:** I buyed it yesterday.
Correct: I bought it yesterday.
Rule: Irregular verb — past of buy is bought.

Section 5 – Fill-in-the-Blank Practice (with Answers)

1. The food _____ sells hotdogs near the park. → **vendor**
2. Can I get a _____ for my payment? → **receipt**
3. The cashier will _____ your purchase. → **ring up**
4. I don't have enough cash. Can I pay by _____? → **card**
5. The _____ shows this shirt costs \$25. → **price tag**
6. People often make _____ while waiting in line. → **small talk**
7. Let's _____ a bite before the movie. → **grab**
8. My food is for _____, please. → **takeout**
9. I gave the cashier \$10, and she gave me \$2 in _____. → **change**
10. It's okay! _____! → **No problem!**

Section 6 – Conversation Prompts

- What was the last thing you bought in person?
- How do people usually greet cashiers or food vendors in your country?
- What polite phrases do Americans often use when buying things?

Section 7 – Homework

Write a short paragraph describing a simple purchase, like ordering coffee or buying a T-shirt. Include details about what you said, how much it cost, and how the conversation went.

Try to use at least **five words or expressions** from today's vocabulary list.