Lesson 2: Going to the Grocery Store

What You Already Know

- Ask students where they go to shop for groceries (note any grocery stores in your community that are not mentioned, as English language learners often gravitate to stores where first language support is available, and may shy away from unfamiliar stores)
- Have students work with a partner to make a list of things they might need to say or ask when they go to the grocery store
- Have pairs read their lists, and write phrases and vocabulary on the board

Vocabulary

- Excuse me, I’m looking for the __________.
- I’ll take __ pound(s) of __________, please. (meat counter)
- Use a picture dictionary like the Word by Word Picture Dictionary to go over useful food and grocery store vocabulary

Practice

- In pairs, have students take turns asking each other “Excuse me, I’m looking for the ______” with a food item they might look for in the grocery store. Partner plays the role of a store employee and answers, “It’s in aisle __.” Students then switch roles. (If available, students can use picture dictionaries during this activity.)
- Repeat activity above to practice ordering at the meat counter: “I’ll take __ pounds of __, please.”
- Using sticky notes to cover the words on the grocery store page of a picture dictionary, have students work in pairs, quizzing each other on food vocabulary by pointing to a food item for their partner to identify.
- Cut out pictures of lesser-known food items from a grocery store flier and write the corresponding name of the food on an index card. Have students match each picture to the correct word.

Cultural Notes

- Make sure students understand the units of measure used in the U.S. and their corresponding abbreviations: pounds- lbs., ounces- oz.
- Show students how to check price labels on produce to see if the price is per pound (/lb) or individual item (ea.).

Assignment

- Plan a trip to a grocery store you don’t usually shop at.
- Either 1) order meat at the meat counter or 2) ask a store employee for help finding something.