

A Visit to the Hairdresser — Vocabulary Sheet

Part 1: People and Places

Word	Meaning
hairdresser / hair stylist	the person who cuts and styles your hair
salon	the shop where hairdressers work
appointment	an agreed time for your visit
client / customer	the person getting their hair done

Part 2: Things at the Salon

Word	Meaning
mirror	you look at your new hair in it
cape	the big cover to keep hair off your clothes
scissors	the cutting tool
comb / brush	for making hair smooth
shampoo	soap for washing hair
conditioner	cream that makes hair soft
hairdryer	the machine that blows hot air
hair clips / pins	they hold hair in place

Part 3: What the Hairdresser Does

Phrase	Meaning
cut / trim	cutting a little or a lot
wash	cleaning the hair
blow-dry	drying with the hairdryer
style	making the hair look nice
color / dye	changing the hair color
highlight	making small pieces of hair lighter
curl / straighten	making hair curly or straight
brush	another name for hairdresser
bangs / fringe	the hair over your forehead (US / UK)

Part 4: Hair Descriptions

Word	Example
long / short	She has long blond hair.
curly / wavy / straight	My hair is wavy.
blond / brown / black / red	She is blond.
thick / fine / frizzy	Her hair is thick and healthy.

Part 5: Useful Phrases for the Salon

Making the appointment:

- I'd like to make an appointment, please.
- Do you have time on Thursday at 3 o'clock?

At the salon — telling the hairdresser what you want:

- Just a trim, please. (= *only a little cut*)
- Please cut about five centimeters.
- Don't cut it too short!
- Can you wash it, please?
- I'd like a blow-dry, please.
- Could you straighten it?

When it's finished:

- It looks wonderful! Thank you!
 - How much is it?
 - I'd like to book my next appointment.
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Dialogue — At the Hair Salon

Read the dialogue. Then practice it with your teacher!

Hairdresser: Good afternoon! Welcome to Sunshine Salon. **Client:** Hello! I have an appointment at three o'clock. My name is Anna. **Hairdresser:** Ah yes, Anna! Please take a seat. How would you like your hair today? **Client:** Well, my hair is quite long. I'd like a trim — maybe five centimeters. And can you add some layers? **Hairdresser:** Of course! Layers will look lovely with your long blond hair. Would you like a wash first? **Client:** Yes, please. With shampoo and conditioner. **Hairdresser:** Perfect. Please come to the basin.

(Later...)

Hairdresser: All done! What do you think? **Client:** Oh, it looks wonderful! So shiny and healthy. **Hairdresser:** I'm glad you like it! I gave you a nice blow-dry, too. **Client:** Thank you! How much is it? **Hairdresser:** That's thirty euros, please. **Client:** Here you are. I'd like to book my next appointment — six weeks? **Hairdresser:** Certainly! Thursday at three works well?

Practice Exercises

Exercise 1: Match the word to the definition.

1. **trim** a) the person who cuts your hair
2. **cape** b) cutting only a little
3. **hairdresser** c) making small pieces of hair lighter
4. **highlight** d) the cover that protects your clothes
5. **appointment** e) an agreed time for your visit

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

hairdryer · scissors · mirror · shampoo · appointment

1. I look at my new haircut in the _____.

2. The hairdresser uses _____ to cut the hair.
3. I need to make an _____ before I go.
4. She washes my hair with _____.
5. She dries my hair with the _____.

Exercise 3: What does the client want? Choose the correct phrase.

1. You want only a little cut. You say: a) Cut everything! b) Just a trim, please. c) Color it red.
2. The hairdresser asks how you like it. You say: a) It looks wonderful! b) I have an appointment. c) How much is the shampoo?
3. You want to pay. You ask: a) Where is the mirror? b) Do you have a brush? c) How much is it?
4. You love your long hair. The hairdresser wants to cut it. You warn: a) Don't cut it too short! b) Wash it first. c) Give me bangs.

Exercise 4: Complete the dialogue with words from the box.

trim · appointment · blow-dry · wash · appointment

Client: Hello, I have an _____ at ten o'clock. **Hairdresser:** Welcome! What would you like today? **Client:** A _____, please — about three centimeters. And a _____ first, my hair is dirty. **Hairdresser:** Of course. A wash and a small trim. **Client:** And can I have a _____ at the end? I'm going to a party tonight! **Hairdresser:** A wash, a trim, and a blow-dry. You will look beautiful!

In Luxembourg, it is common to leave a tip after you have had your hair cut. Often, you will see one or more containers at the reception for this purpose.

Other times, you might see a container at the individual hairdressers' work stations. Don't be surprised if you are asked if you would like something to drink. This is a common courtesy.

Traditionally, hair salons are closed on Mondays because they are open all day on Saturdays. However, I have noticed that most hair salons situated in a shopping center are open from Monday to Saturday.