
Discovering Swedish



EPISODE 7

**“Vad kostar mat...?”
and
“numbers 25-99”**



Dialogue

Swedish

Johanna: Mjök?

Karl: Nej.

Johanna: Bröd?

Karl: Nej.

Johanna: Grädde, flingor, potatis, kyckling... ehm... gul lök?

Karl: Nej, nej, ehm... nej, nej, ja kanske... men nej, löken är gammal.

Johanna: Herregud! Vi måste handla!* Vad kostar det?

Karl: I Sverige är det mycket dyrt.**

Johanna: Hmm, ja. José? José! Vad kostar mat?***

José: Vad skall ni köpa?

Karl: Mjök, grädde, flingor, potatis, bröd, kyckling och gul lök.

José: Det kostar 99 kronor.

Johanna: Jaha?!

English

Johanna: Milk?

Karl: No.

Johanna: Bread?

Karl: No.

Johanna: Cream, cereals, potatoes, chicken... ehm... onions?

Karl: No, no, ehm... no, no, yes maybe... but no, the onions have gone bad.

Johanna: Oh my god! We must go shopping! How much will it cost?

Karl: In Sweden it is very expensive.

Johanna: Hmm, yes. José? José! What does food cost?

José: What will you buy?

Karl: Milk, cream, cereals, potatoes, bread, chicken and onions.

José: That will be 99 Swedish kronor.

Johanna: I see?!

Notes: *Handla' typically refers to grocery shopping. Although it could be used to describe other kinds of shopping, it is more common to use the verb 'köpa' (to buy). See grammar explanations below for examples.

**Of course, this depends greatly upon the product. Generally speaking, though, meat is quite expensive, compared to many other countries.

***To literally ask 'what does food cost' is as strange in Swedish as it is in English.

Key vocabulary

Swedish	English
mjölk (-en)	milk
grädde (-n)	cream
flingor	cereals
(en) potatis	potato
(en) kyckling	chicken
(en) gul lök	onion

(ett) bröd	bread
billig/dyr	cheap/expensive
gammal/färsk	old/fresh
Herregud!	oh my god!
vad kostar ____?	what does ____ cost?
handla	to shop/buy things
mat (-en)	food
måste	must
köpa	buy
SEK, kronor	Swedish kronor (the currency used in Sweden)

Key sentences

Swedish	English
Vad kostar mjölken?	What does the milk cost?
Vi måste handla.	We must go shopping. (usually for food)
Mjölken är gammal.	The milk has gone bad.
Potatisen är mycket dyr.	The potatoes are very expensive.

Numbers: 0 – 1000 000

0	Noll	10	Tio
1	Ett	11	Elve
2	Två	12	Tolv
3	Tre	13	Tretton
4	Fyra	14	Fjorton
5	Fem	15	Femton
6	Sex	16	Sexton
7	Sju	17	Sjutton
8	Åtta	18	Årton
9	Nia	19	Nitton
20	Tjugo	60	Sextio
30	Trettio	70	Sjuttio
40	Fyrtio	80	Åttio
50	Femtio	90	Nittio
Form the intermediate numbers like thus: tjugo-ett, tjugo-två etc.			
100	Ett hundra	600	Sex hundra
200	Två hundra	700	Sju hundra
300	Tre hundra	800	Åtta hundra
400	Fyra hundra	900	Nio hundra
500	Fem hundra		
1000	Ett tusen	7000	Sju tusen
2000	Två tusen	8000	Åtta tusen
3000	Tre tusen	9000	Nio tusen
4000	Fyra tusen	10 000	Tio tusen
5000	Fem tusen	100 000	Ett hundra tusen
6000	Sex tusen	1 000 000	En miljon

Grammar Explanations

Handla, Köpa, Shoppa

These are all verbs that describe roughly the same kind of action: to buy things. 'Shoppa', of course, is derived from the English 'shopping' and is probably the least common of the three. It also appears in some fixed expressions, like 'shoppa loss' (lit. 'to shop loose'). 'Handla' is often used to refer specifically to grocery shopping, but can be used for other kinds of shopping as well. When it is used in that way, the kind of items to be bought are commonly specified in the sentence. Lastly, 'köpa' (to buy) can be used in all situations where you buy something.

Handla

Example:

We	must	buy (food)	
Vi	måste	handla	
We	must	buy	food
Vi	måste	handla	mat

Both of these Swedish sentences (above) mean the same thing: We must buy food. The word for food ('mat') is usually omitted, but unless it has been made clear from the context that something else is referenced, 'food' is inferred.

Example:

Shall	we	buy (some)	clothes
Ska	vi	handla	kläder

This sentence is possible, but uncommon. When buying things other than food, we recommend that you should use 'köpa' (to buy) instead.

Köpa

Example

We	must	buy (some)	milk
Vi	måste	köpa	mjölk
We	must	buy (some)	socks
Vi	måste	köpa	strumpor
We	must	buy	a house
Vi	måste	köpa	ett hus

This is a very versatile verb. You can use 'köpa' (to buy) with pretty much anything. When buying food in general, we usually use 'handla', but when talking about a specific type of food, maybe 'köpa' (to buy) is just as common.

Shoppa

Example:

Shop loose
Shoppa loss

This is a fixed expression, the meaning of which may be translated as: to let loose ones inhibitions and go shopping without any restraint.

As mentioned earlier, 'shoppa' comes from the English word 'shopping' or 'to shop'. It is not used very often, and many times appear in fixed expressions like the one above. It is not that uncommon, however, to hear it in the sentence:

Example:

I like to shop
Jag tycker om att shoppa