

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

Shopping, as most of us know, can be fun and it can be frustrating. You're coming down the aisle in the local grocery store and you find an old friend that you haven't seen for years. It is time for some conversation. You are so happy to see this person that you stop in the middle of the aisle with your basket blocking access. Your pleasure has turned into frustration for the other shoppers. They cannot get by nor can they reach for an item from the shelf that you are blocking. The same thing happens in stores such as Costco where food "grazing" oops, sampling is popular. So what can you do about it? Be aware of your fellow shoppers and choose a spot so other people can get through. I also love it when the person parks the shopping cart on the right side of the aisle while standing in the center, reaching for that item from the shelf on the left side and reading the label. Sometimes courtesy goes right out the window. The other day I was looking over a display in a local market when all of a sudden a hand whizzed by my right eye. The guy behind me was reaching for an item with no warning to me. I would have gladly moved over, or ahead, had I known he was there. While standing in a checkout line, it is a good idea to stand back and give the person in front of you their "space". Nothing worse than some dolt standing so close to you that he or she can look right into your wallet. Even though standing back in one instance, I witnessed a situation that I thought was humorous although I am sure the couple involved did not think it so. They had a shopping cart full of groceries that came to over Two Hundred dollars. He wrote the check, the clerk scanned it and told the couple that there were no funds in their account. From what I could gather, she had exhausted the checking account without her husband's knowledge. They had to leave the cart full of groceries and there were some pretty bad looks exchanged on their way out. Oh yes, there is always the person being checked out who remembers something he or she forgot and they run off to search for the item while the checkout line comes to a screeching halt. I recently had a story sent to me which may or may not be true but I think it humorous. The story goes; supposedly, this lady entered the checkout with a huge basket of groceries even though the sign stated it was an express line limited to seven items. Undaunted, the clerk turned to the customer and sweetly said "Which seven items did you want me to check out?"

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