

## **SHE LOVES HER SON**

Maria had to buy food for herself and her son. Divorced for ten years, she was used to doing the shopping for her son. He was a junior in high school, which meant that he would be entering college in two years. Then she would be shopping only for herself. She felt sad when she thought of this. She hoped that he would attend the local junior college and then transfer to a university. That way he could continue to live at home for another two years. She loved him, and dreaded the day that he would no longer be her daily company.

Maria drove to Costco, a chain store that sold food in bulk packages. By selling in bulk only, the store helps its customers save money. She parked far from the entrance. That meant a longer walk, but also a faster exit from the parking lot. She grabbed one of the big shopping carts outside and pushed it into the store. Her purse stayed tightly hung over her shoulder. Surprisingly, the store wasn't too crowded.

In the produce section, she examined nine packages of seedless green grapes before she found one that she liked. She carefully selected some bananas, apples, and other fruit. But she couldn't find her son's favorite brand of tangerines. On the way home, she planned to stop at another market or two until she found them.

### **bulk1 [buhlk] Show IPA**

noun

1.

magnitude in three dimensions: a ship of great bulk.

2.

the greater part; main mass or body: The bulk of the debt was paid.

3.

goods or cargo not in packages or boxes, usually transported in large volume, as grain, coal, or petroleum.

4.

fiber ( def 9 ) .

5.

(of paper, cardboard, yarn, etc.) thickness, especially in relation to weight.

**crowd-ed [krou-did] Show IPA**

adjective

1.

filled to excess; packed.

2.

filled with a crowd: crowded streets.

3.

uncomfortably close together: crowded passengers on a bus.

**dread [dred] Show IPA**

verb (used with object)

1.

to fear greatly; be in extreme apprehension of: to dread death.

2.

to be reluctant to do, meet, or experience: I dread going to big parties.

3.

Archaic. to hold in respectful awe.

verb (used without object)

4.

to be in great fear.

noun

5.

terror or apprehension as to something in the future; great fear.

6.

a person or thing dreaded.

7.

dreads, Informal. dreadlocks.

8.

Informal. a person who wears dreadlocks.

9.

Archaic. deep awe or reverence.

**grab1 [grab] Show IPA**

verb (used with object), grabbed, grab·bing.

1.

to seize suddenly or quickly; snatch; clutch: He grabbed me by the collar.

2.

to take illegal possession of; seize forcibly or unscrupulously: to grab land.

3.

to obtain and consume quickly: Let's grab a sandwich before going to the movie.

4.

Slang.

a.

to cause a reaction in; affect: How does my idea grab you?

b.

to arouse the interest or excitement of: The book was O.K., but it just didn't grab me.

verb (used without object), grabbed, grab·bing.

5.

to make a grasping or clutching motion (usually followed by at ): He grabbed frantically at the life preserver.

6.

(of brakes, a clutch, etc.) to take hold suddenly or with a jolting motion; bind.