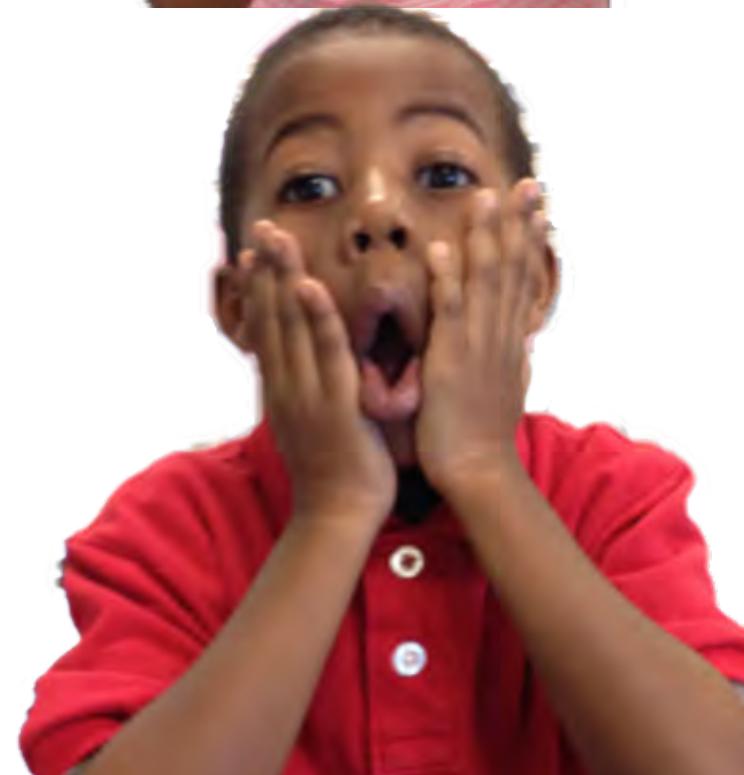


Let's Pretend...Flower Shop

**Are you ready
to pretend?
Let's go!**



**Close your eyes.
Now open
them...**



We're in a Flower Shop!





I am a florist and I work in a flower shop. It is a store that sells flowers and things for the garden.



We sell plants.

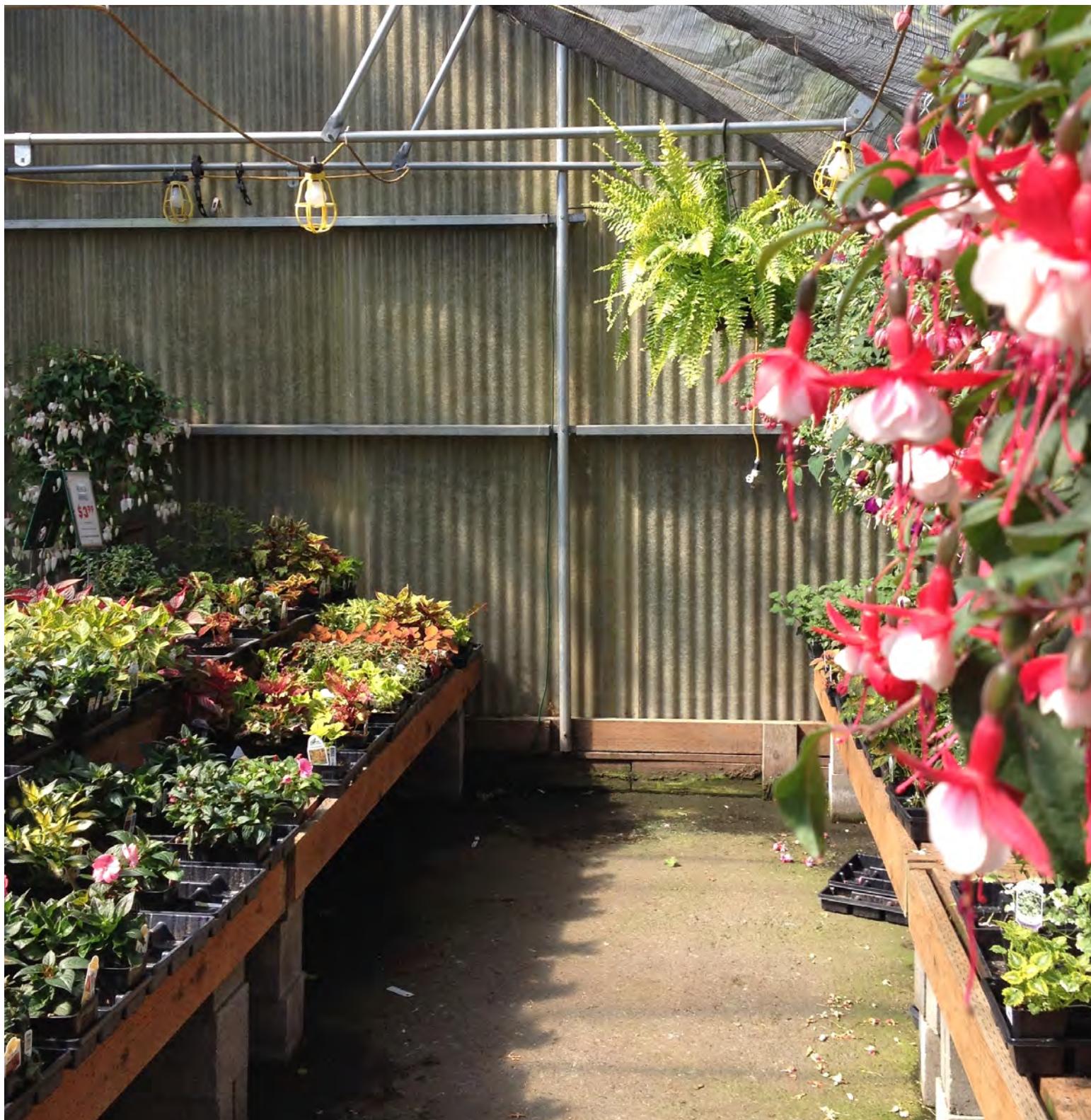


GARDEN



We sell pots and garden ornaments, like clay gnomes and birds.

And we grow flowers and other plants in our greenhouse. The greenhouse protects the plants from cold weather. It is hot and moist inside.





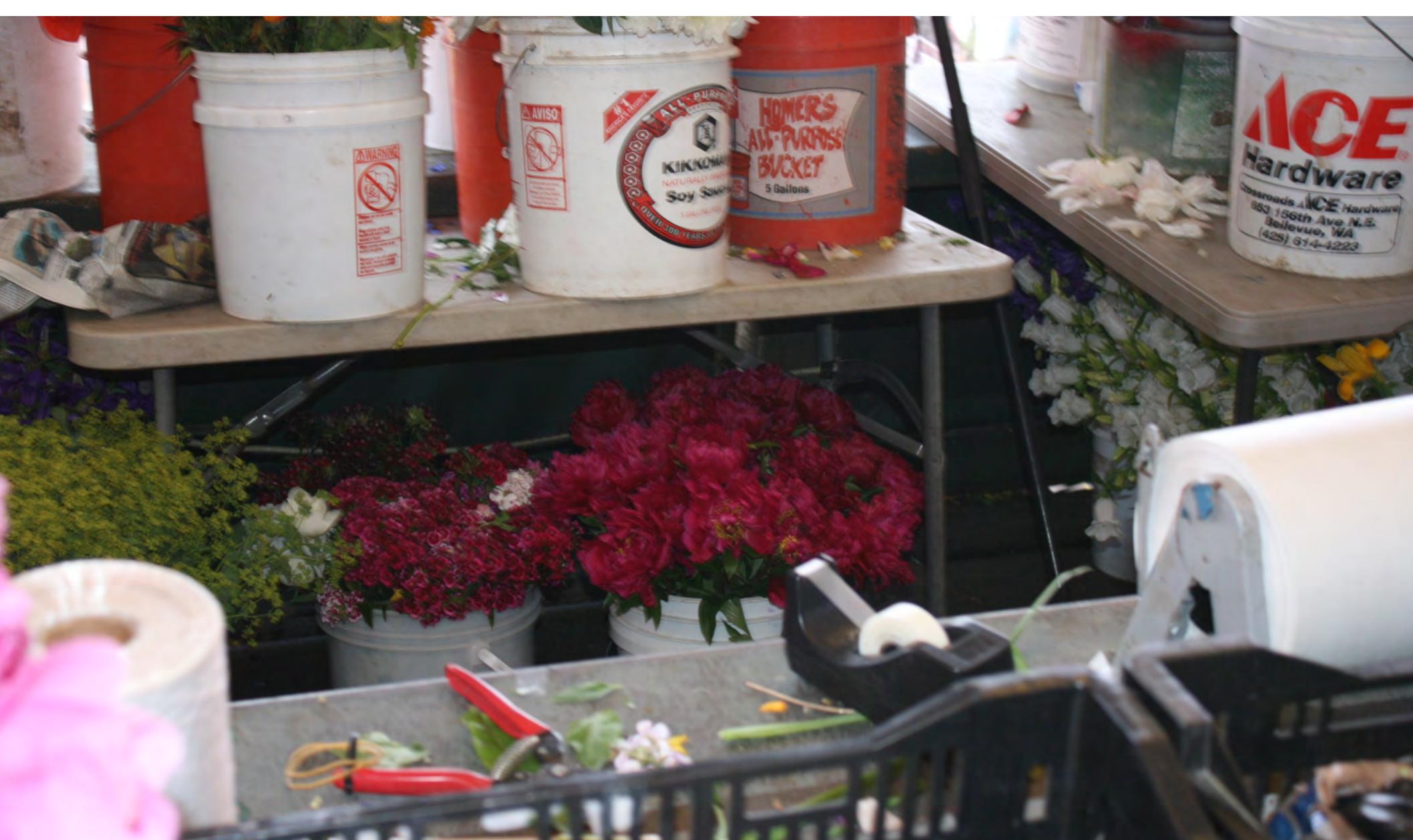
There are lots of jobs to do at our flower shop. Yard workers water the plants and flowers. The yard worker says, “Be careful not to trip on my hose.”



I have several florists working with me to care for and arrange the flowers. Once the flowers are cut, they sort the flowers into buckets of water. The florist puts all the white calla lilies together in one bucket; all the purple irises in another; all the orange tiger lilies in another. Then the sweet pea flowers—they smell so good! They go together in buckets but we have to separate the red ones from the purple ones—there are so many different kinds of flowers to sort!



Then the florists arrange flowers into pretty bouquets that we wrap in paper. We sell the bouquets in the store.



When we are busy, we have to work fast to keep up with all the customers. We have ten orders today! There are five orders for the hospital, three for birthdays and two more orders for customers who are waiting! We have work stations with all the tools we need to make flower arrangements and fill orders.



All day long our florists work to trim and arrange the flowers. Juanita has some orange tiger lilies. They look bright and vibrant when she mixes them in with other colors. She is careful with them so the blossoms and buds don't get broken. Flowers are fragile.



Roberto's arrangements always sell quickly. He knows just how to choose colors and types of flowers to make a beautiful bouquet. He says, "Maybe I should add some pink flowers to this bouquet."



Before adding a flower to a bouquet, we take scissors and trim off any leaves or flowers that don't look fresh. Then we sweep up the floor. Pretend to do this with us. Snip, snip. snip. Turn the flower all around; any more leaves you should snip? Now pick another flower and trim it and add it to your bouquet. When you are done, pick up your broom and sweep, sweep, sweep. It's a big mess, isn't it? Cleaning up is part of a florist's work.



Look at all the flower choices we have today. Pretend you are going to arrange a bouquet. Turn and tell a friend the colors and flowers you would choose. Would you choose some tall spiky ones? Some fluffy pink ones?

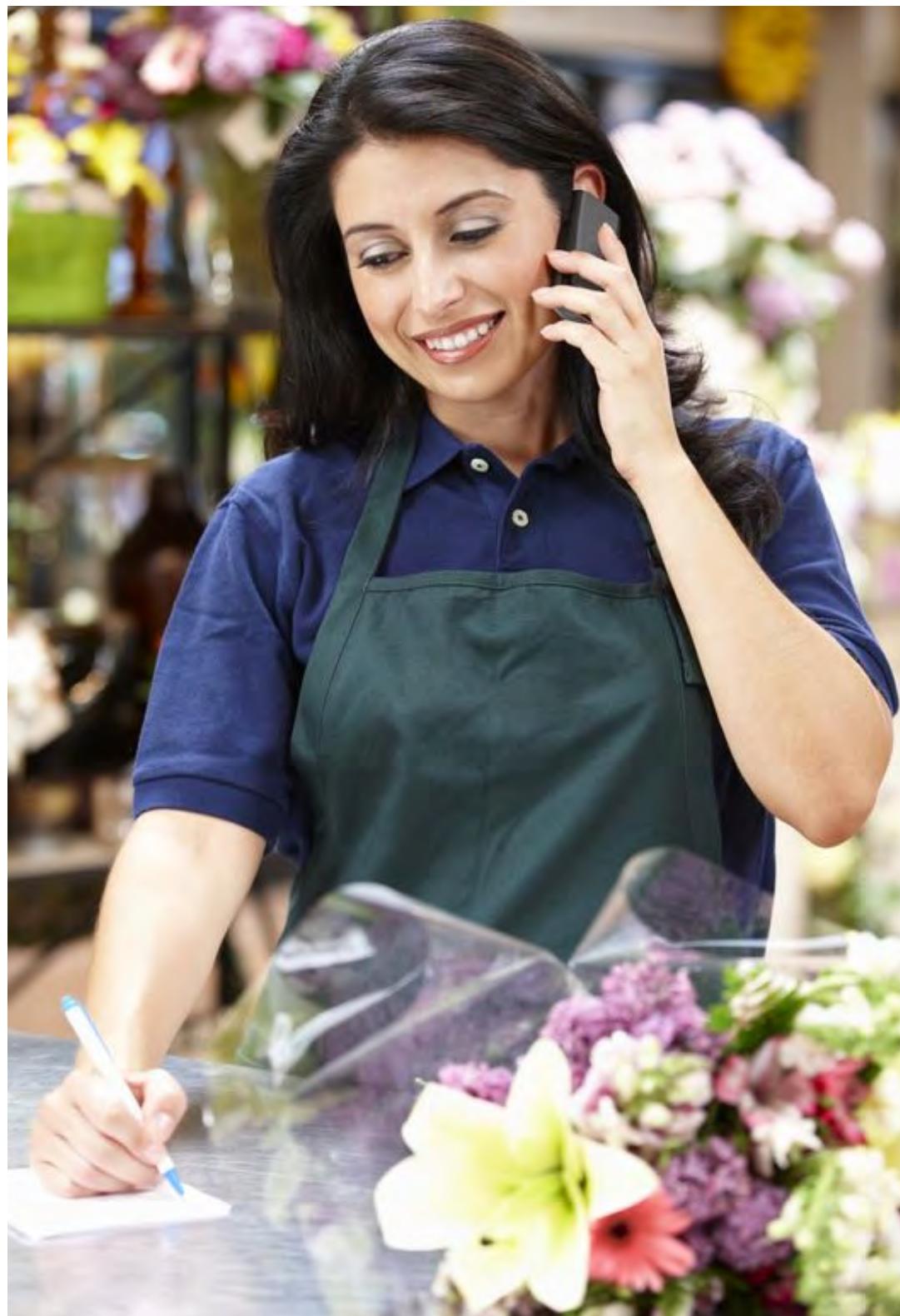


Did your pretend bouquet look like ours? They are so beautiful the customers have trouble deciding which one to pick! When customers pick a bouquet, they bring it to the counter to pay for it.



The cashier waits on customers. “That will be ten dollars, sir. I hope you enjoy your bouquet of flowers. Put them in water as soon as possible.”

Our phones are always ringing. We do a lot of business on the phone. Customers call and tell us what they want us to make. We ask questions as we take the order and write down the answers. “How much money do you want to spend? What color flowers do you like? Do you want roses? What would you like us to write on the card? Do you want to pick up or for us to deliver?”



We also ask:“Do
you want your
flowers in a vase?”



“Or would you prefer
some small plants
in a clay pot?”





“Ok, one dozen red roses in a glass vase. We'll write “I love you, Mom” on the card, and you want that delivered tomorrow? Ok sir, just give me your address and your credit card information and we'll get right to work on it.”





Our customers buy flowers for lots of different reasons, but many just love our flowers, and buy them to bring home and put in a vase in their house. Working with flowers is a great job!

**Now it's your
turn to
pretend!**

