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## **Selling and Sales Management**

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**Tenth Edition** 

## **Selling and Sales Management**

David Jobber and Geoff Lancaster

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#### **Preface**

#### Premise

This text covers what must still be the most important element of the marketing mix for most students and practitioners. With a move away from the selling function towards more esoteric areas of marketing over the past few years, this vital aspect of marketing has been somewhat neglected. However, in the end it has to be face-to-face contact that eventually wins the order, and this text therefore explains and documents the selling and sales management process from both the theoretical and practical viewpoints.

#### Book structure

More precisely, the text is split into five logical parts: Sales perspective, Sales environment, Sales technique, Sales management and Sales control.

Sales perspective examines selling in its historical role and then views its place within marketing and a marketing organisation. Different types of buyers are also analysed in order to help us achieve an understanding of their thinking and organise our selling effort accordingly. Sales technique is essentially practical and covers preparation for selling, the personal selling process and sales responsibility. Sales environment looks at the institutions through which sales are made; this covers channels, including industrial, commercial and public authority selling followed by selling for resale. International selling is an increasingly important area in view of the ever increasing 'internationalisation' of business and this merits a separate chapter. Sales management covers recruitment, selection, motivation and training, in addition to how we must organise and compensate salespeople from a managerial standpoint. Finally, Sales control covers sales budgets and explains how this is the starting point for business planning. Sales forecasting is also covered in this final section, and a guide is given to the techniques of forecasting and why it is strictly a responsibility of sales management and not finance. Each chapter concludes with a mini case study and practical exercises, together with formal practice questions typical of those the student will encounter in the examination room.

#### New to this edition

This latest edition contains cutting-edge research that differentiates it from most of its competitors. In addition, there are new and updated cases and practical exercises, together with more practical illustrations and examples.

Other improvements include:

- Increased coverage of strategic selling and partnering.
- More discussion of ethical issues in selling.
- Expanded coverage of the management of sales channels.
- Enhanced discussion of the role of social media in selling.
- Further discussion of lead generation.
- Increased number of examination questions at the end of each chapter.

#### **Preface**

#### Target market

This text will be invaluable to those students studying for the examinations of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, the Communication, Advertising and Marketing Education Foundation, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry higher stage selling and sales management subject, marketing specialisms on Higher National Certificate and Diploma in Business Studies, first degrees with a marketing input, and postgraduate courses like the Diploma in Management Studies and Master of Business Administration that have a marketing input. In addition, the text emphasises the practical as well as the theoretical, and it will be of invaluable assistance to salespeople in the field as well as to sales management.

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We would like to thank Paul Miller and John O'Connor for providing excellent material on the applications of IT in sales. We also wish to thank all of the case contributors, especially Dr Diana Luck, for supplying excellent case studies to enhance the practical aspects of the book. We also thank the reviewers who provided feedback for this edition.

Finally, we would like to thank our editorial team at Pearson Education for helping to make this new edition possible.

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#### **Tables**

Table 1.2 from Hiring for success at the buyer–seller interface, *Journal of Business Research*, Vol. 56(4), pp. 247–255. (Marshall, G.W., Goebel, D.J. and Moncrief, W.C. 2003), Copyright © 2003, with permission from Elsevier; Table 1.3 adapted from What are the characteristics of an effective sales manager? An exploratory study comparing salesperson and sales manager perspectives, *Journal of Personal Selling and Sales Management*, 28 (1), pp. 7–20 (Deeter-Schmelz, D.R., Goebel, D.J. and Kennedy, K.M. 2008); Table 1.4 from Linking market share strategies to sales force objectives, activities and compensation policies, *Journal of Personal Selling and Sales Management*, Vol.6 (2), pp.11–18 (Strakle, W. and Spiro, R.L. 1986); Table 3.1 adapted from National Readership Survey, January–December 2007; Table 5.1 from The extent and formality of sales agency evaluations of principals, *Industrial Marketing Management*, Vol. 30(1), pp.37–49 (Merritt, N.J. and Newell, S.J. 2001), © (2001), with permission from Elsevier; Table 5.2 from Selling to Japan: know the business customs, *International Trade Forum*, Vol.12 (Japanese External Trade Organisation 1976), Reproduced by permission of JETRO http://www.jetro.go.jp/uk/;

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# PART ONE

## Sales perspective

Part 1 of *Selling and Sales Management* consists of two introductory chapters that set the context for the remainder of the book.

Chapter 1 introduces the nature and role of selling and sales management before relating this to the marketing concept. The incontrovertibly interlinked relationship between selling and sales management is then explained and the notion of more sophisticated marketing thought is described as having its roots in sales. The main business philosophies, also called business orientations, are explained. The way in which the marketing concept is implemented in practice through the marketing mix is discussed. Key concepts including market segmentation and targeting and the 'four Ps' marketing mix variables of price, product, promotion and place are introduced. The extensions of the Ps over the years are summarised. The chapter then concludes with a more detailed explanation of the relationship between marketing strategy and personal selling.

Sales strategies and how these relate to marketing planning form the basis of Chapter 2. The traditional marketing planning process is explained, with emphasis on issues like targeting, pricing, customer retention and the allocation and control of resources to assist implementation of the plan. The place of selling in the marketing plan is examined in detail, explaining how pivotal the sales function is in achieving success, along with a related discussion of how the notion of 'inside-out' planning is being replaced by 'outside-in' thinking. Selling is traditionally referred to as an element of the 'promotional mix', but the view is taken that this should more correctly be described as the 'communications mix'. An explanation is given of the place of selling alongside traditional elements in the communications mix, namely advertising, sales promotion and public relations. More contemporary elements of the communications mix, namely direct marketing, internet marketing and customer relationship marketing, are also examined in terms of how these interface with the sales process.

## Chapter 1

# Development and role of selling in marketing

#### **Objectives**

After studying this chapter, you should be able to:

- 1. Understand the implications of production, sales and marketing orientation
- 2. Appreciate why selling generally has a negative image
- 3. Know where selling fits into the marketing mix
- 4. Identify the responsibilities of sales management
- 5. Recognise the role of selling as a career

#### **Key concepts**

- break-even analysis
- business to business (B2B)
- business to consumer (B2C)
- communications mix
- exclusive distribution
- intensive distribution
- market penetration
- market segmentation

- market skimming
- marketing concept
- marketing mix
- product life-cycle
- sales management
- selling
- target accounts
- targeting

#### 1.1 Background

Perhaps no other area of business activity gives rise to as much discussion among and between those directly involved and those who are not involved as the activity known as selling. This is not surprising when one considers that so many people derive their livelihood, either directly or indirectly, from selling. Even those who have no direct involvement in selling come into contact with it in their roles as consumers. Perhaps, because of this familiarity, many people have strong, and often misplaced, views about selling and salespeople. Surprisingly, many of these misconceptions are held by people who have spent their working lives in selling, so it might well be a case of familiarity breeds contempt.

It is important to recognise that **selling** and sales management, although closely related, are not the same thing. In this chapter, the nature and role of selling will be examined. Sales management in the contemporary organisation will also be discussed. Some of the more common myths and misconceptions about selling and sales management will be dispelled.

Like other business functions, the role of selling has changed over the years. Perhaps one of the most important and far-reaching of these changes has been the creation and practice of marketing. This has been due to changes in the business environment. The place of marketing within the firm and the place of selling within marketing will both be discussed.

#### 1.2 Nature and role of selling

The simplest way to think of the nature and role of selling (traditionally called salesmanship) is to make a sale. This seemingly obvious statement disguises what is often a very complex process. This involves the use of a set of principles and techniques as well as substantial personal skills. This process also includes a wide range of different types of selling tasks. Later we will establish a more precise meaning for the term *selling*, but first we will examine the reasons for the intense interest in this area of business activity.

Literature on selling abounds, ranging from the more conceptual approaches to the simplistic 'how it is done' approach. Companies spend large sums of money training their sales personnel in the art of selling. The reason for this attention to personal selling is simple: in most companies the sales personnel are the single most important link with the customer. The front-line role of the salesperson means that for many customers the salesperson is the company. However, the best-designed and planned marketing efforts may fail if the salespeople are ineffective. Allied with the often substantial costs associated with recruiting, training and maintaining the sales force there are powerful reasons for stressing the importance of the selling task and for justifying attempts to improve effectiveness in this area. Part Three of this book addresses this important area of sales techniques.

The term *selling* encompasses a variety of sales situations and activities. For example, there are those sales positions where the sales representative is required primarily to deliver the product to the customer on a regular or periodic basis. The emphasis in this type of sales activity is very different from the sales position where the sales representative is dealing with sales of capital equipment to industrial purchasers. In addition, some sales representatives deal only in export markets while others sell direct to customers in their homes. One of the most striking aspects of selling is the wide diversity of selling roles. A sales executive may only be able to

#### Table 1.1 Strengths and weaknesses of personal selling

- + Interactive: questions can be answered and objections overcome
- + Adaptive: presentations can be changed to meet customer needs
- + Complex arguments can be developed
- + Relationships can be built because of its personal nature
- + Provides the opportunity to close the sale
- Sales calls are expensive compared with other communications media (e.g. a visit to a business customer is far more expensive than sending an email)
- The experience and expertise of salespeople are varied
- It is difficult to standardise input and human behaviour as people, whether consciously or not, can be inconsistent
- Training can be costly and it needs to be ongoing (e.g. new employees need training, while experienced employees may have picked up bad habits and hence need to be monitored; all employees must be updated in terms of new skills and expertise required)

sell standard products while others may be involved with customisation or personalisation of products and services. For example, in mobile phone shops such as EE, Vodafone and Apple, the sales executives can sell an array of different plans. However, the tariffs are set by the company. Based on the needs of the specific customer, they can, nevertheless, add on services and work out a package with all the additional costs if need be. Consequently, even though the price plans are standard, some degree of customisation is possible.

Table 1.1 lists strengths and weaknesses of personal selling.

#### 1.3 Characteristics of modern selling

Today, a sales force must have a wide range of skills to compete successfully. Gone are the days when salespeople required simple presentational and closing skills to be successful. Today selling requires a wide array of skills, which will be identified in the next section. In this section we discuss the characteristics of modern selling. Salespeople who do not understand these characteristics will be ill-equipped to tackle their jobs.

The characteristics of modern selling are given in Figure 1.1.

- 1 *Customer retention and deletion:* according to the Pareto Principle, 80 per cent of a company's sales come from 20 per cent of its customers. This means that it is vital to devote considerable resources to retaining existing high-volume, high-potential and highly profitable customers. Key account management has become an important form of sales organisation because it means that a salesperson or sales team can focus their efforts on one client or a few major customers.
  - At the other end of the spectrum, companies are finding that some small customers actually cost the organisation money. This is because servicing and distribution of products to those customers may push costs beyond the revenue generated. Larger companies may have to change to telemarketing and/or the internet as a means of servicing these small customers or decide to terminate the relationships if the high costs to serve them cannot be reduced.
- **2** *Database and knowledge management:* the modern sales force needs to be trained in the use and creation of customer databases, and how to use the internet to aid the sales task (e.g.

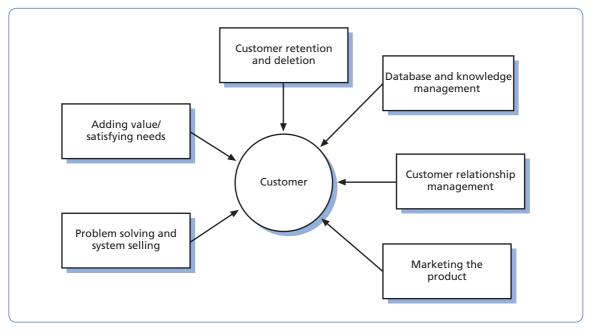


Figure 1.1 Characteristics of modern selling

Source: Adapted from Moncrief, W.C. and Marshall, G.W. (2005) The evolution of the seven steps of selling, Industrial Marketing Management, 34: 13-22.

finding customer and competitor information). In the past salespeople recorded customer information on cards and sent in orders through the post to head office. Today, technological advances such as email, mobile phones and video conferencing have transformed the way knowledge is transferred. Laptops mean that salespeople can store customer and competitor information, make presentations and communicate with head office electronically. Furthermore, information supplied by the company, such as catalogues and price lists, can be held electronically.

- 3 *Customer relationship management:* customer relationship management requires that the sales force focuses on the long term and not simply on closing the next sale. The emphasis should be on creating win–win situations with customers so that both parties to the interaction gain and want to continue the relationship. For major customers, relationship management may involve setting up dedicated teams to service the account and maintain all aspects of the business relationship. This form of organisational structure, key account management, is discussed in Chapter 9, and Chapter 10 is devoted to relationship selling.
- 4 *Marketing the product*: the modern salesperson is involved in a much broader range of activities than simply planning and making a sales presentation. Indeed, face-to-face presentations can now sometimes be replaced by information presented on web pages and by email attachments that give the customer up-to-date information on many topics more quickly and comprehensively, and in a more time-convenient manner than many face-to-face interactions.<sup>2</sup> The role of the salesperson is expanding to participation in marketing activities such as product development, market development and the segmentation of markets, as well as other tasks that support or complement marketing activities such as database management, provision and analysis of information, and assessing market segments.<sup>3</sup>

- 5 *Problem solving and system selling:* much of modern selling, particularly in business to business situations, is based upon the salesperson acting as a consultant working with the customer to identify problems, determine needs and propose and implement effective solutions. This approach is fundamentally different from the traditional view of the salesperson being a smooth fast-talker who breezes in to see a customer, persuades the customer to buy and walks away with an order. Modern selling often involves multiple calls, the use of a team-selling approach and considerable analytical skills. Further, customers are increasingly looking for a systems solution rather than the buying of an individual product. This means, for example, that to sell door handles to a company like Ford a supplier must not only be able to sell a door system that includes door handles as well as locking and opening devices but also have a thorough knowledge of door technology, and the ability to suggest to Ford solutions to problems that may arise. Consequently, the augmented services are playing an increasingly important role.
- 6 Satisfying needs and adding value: the modern salesperson must have the ability to identify and satisfy customer needs. Some customers do not recognise they have a need. It is the salesperson's job in such situations to stimulate need recognition. For example, customers may not realise that a machine in the production process has low productivity compared to newer, more technologically advanced machines. The salesperson's job is to make customers aware of the improvements being created and made available to them in order to convince them about the ongoing intention of the company to help their customers and remain innovative. In so doing, the salesperson will have added value to the customer's business by reducing costs as acquiring new customers is more expensive than retaining existing customers. A win—win situation for their company and the customer is also created in this situation.

#### 1.4 Success factors for professional salespeople

A key issue for aspiring and current salespeople and sales managers is an understanding of the key success factors in selling. A study by Marshall, Goebel and Moncrief (2003) asked sales managers to identify the skills and knowledge required to be successful in selling.<sup>5</sup> Table 1.2 shows the top ten success factors.

#### Table 1.2 Top ten success factors in selling

- 1 Listening skills
- 2 Follow-up skills
- 3 Ability to adapt sales style from situation to situation
- 4 Tenacity sticking to the task
- 5 Organisational skills
- 6 Verbal communication skills
- 7 Proficiency in interacting with people at all levels within an organisation
- 8 Demonstrated ability to overcome objections
- 9 Closing skills
- 10 Personal planning and time management skills

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#### Chapter 1 Development and role of selling in marketing

Key success factors relate to essential considerations. It is important to recognise these success factors since such knowledge has the potential to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the salesperson–customer interaction in several ways. First, sales managers can use this knowledge of widely accepted sales success factors to improve their recruitment and training practices. Second, candidates for sales jobs can use this knowledge of success factors to ensure they work towards high levels of proficiency in those key areas they can control, and do as well as possible emphasising their own capabilities during the job interview. Third, sales educators at universities and colleges have information upon which to ensure their curricula best reflect the skills and knowledge most valued by practitioners. <sup>6</sup>

#### 1.5 Types of selling

The diverse nature of the buying situation means that there are many types of selling job: selling varies according to the nature of the selling task. Figure 1.2 shows that there is a fundamental distinction between order-takers, order-creators and order-getters. Order-takers respond to already committed customers; order-creators do not directly receive orders since they talk to those who specify rather than buyers; while order-getters attempt to persuade customers to place an order directly.

There are three types of order-takers: inside order-takers, delivery salespeople and outside order-takers. Order-creators are termed missionary salespeople. Order-getters are either front-line salespeople consisting of new business, organisational or consumer salespeople, or sales support salespeople who can be either technical support salespeople or merchandisers. Both types of order-getters operate in situations where a direct sale can be made. Each type of selling job will now be discussed in more detail.

#### Order-takers

#### Inside order-takers

Here the customer has full freedom to choose products without the presence of a salesperson. The sales assistant's task is purely transactional – receiving payment and passing over the goods. Another form of inside order-taker is the telemarketing sales team who support field sales by taking customers' orders over the telephone.

#### **Delivery salespeople**

The salesperson's task is primarily concerned with delivering the product. In the UK, milk, newspapers and magazines are delivered to the door. There is little attempt to persuade the household to increase the milk order or number of newspapers taken: changes in order size are customer-driven. Winning and losing orders will be dependent on reliability of delivery and the personality of the salesperson.

#### **Outside order-takers**

These salespeople visit customers, but their primary function is to respond to customer requests rather than actively seek to persuade. Outside order-takers do not deliver, and to a certain extent they are being replaced by more cost-efficient telemarketing teams.

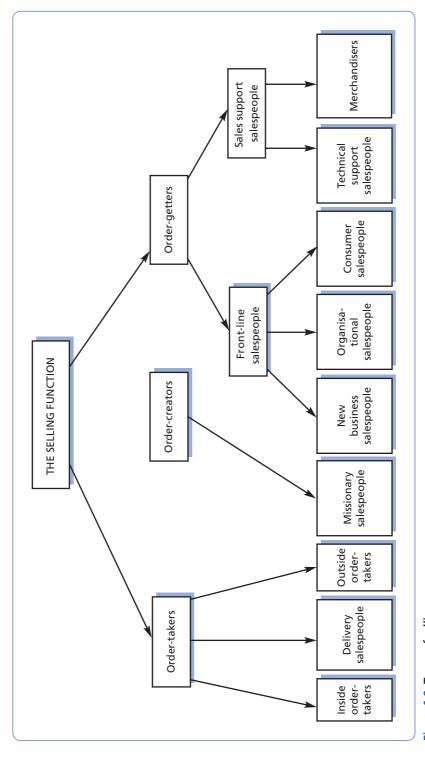


Figure 1.2 Types of selling