




# Fast Fashion


The Environment

## - Teacher's Insights -

### At a Glance

-  60 minutes
-  **B2**, B1
-  vocabulary & speaking

### Preparation

-  0-5 minutes
- Print one worksheet for each student.
- Print the Teacher's Insights or keep them at hand as they contain the answers to the quiz.

### Exercise Summary

- Kickoff:** speaking intro
- Vocabulary Focus:** match words to definitions
- Speaking I:** use new vocab & answer questions
- Quiz:** run a quiz, in groups if possible, and then talk about the answers
- Speaking II:** match problems to solutions, in pairs or groups if possible, and then discuss
- Speaking III:** final conversation

### **Kickoff:** Read the questions and answer them.

This activity is designed to introduce the topic and allow all students to arrive.

1. Where do you normally buy your clothes?
2. How often do you buy new clothes?
3. Which is more important to you when it comes to buying clothes: quality or quantity?

### **Vocabulary Focus:** Match the underlined words with the **definitions**.

This activity is designed to introduce students to the vocabulary needed in the next speaking activity.

something that has already been used = <u>second-hand</u>	take something temporarily = <u>borrow (from)</u>	lots of / piles of = <u>heaps of</u>	rent something (for a set amount of time) = <u>lease</u>
follow / stay current with = <u>keep up with</u>	not anymore = <u>no longer</u>	give to someone else, often a family member = <u>hand down</u>	give something temporarily = <u>lend</u>

- a. There are heaps of clothes in the corner of your room! You need to tidy up!
- b. Now it's October, it's no longer warm enough to go outside without a jacket on.
- c. I don't wear these clothes. I think I'll hand them down to my younger brother.
- d. It can be difficult to keep up with fashion trends. They are changing all the time!
- e. Can I borrow your shirt for tonight's party? I have nothing to wear!
- f. Would you lend me some money to buy a new dress?
- g. I decided to lease a suit for the wedding instead of buying one.
- h. I love shopping for second-hand clothes. I always find really good deals!

### **Speaking I:** Answer the questions using your new vocabulary.

This activity is designed to get students speaking and using their new vocabulary. It also leads towards the **Quiz**, where students will learn about the environmental impacts of fast fashion.

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1. Do you have heaps of clothes that you don't wear?
2. What do you do with clothing you no longer want?
3. Do you hand any clothes down to your younger siblings?
4. Do you make an effort to keep up with fashion?
5. Do you ever borrow other people's clothes?
6. Do you ever lend your clothes to other people?
7. Have you ever considered renting items of clothing?
8. Do you ever buy second-hand clothes?

**Quiz:** **Read the intro and guess the answers to the questions.**  
**The real answers will be given at the end.**

This activity is designed to be a pair or group activity, however it can still be done in one-to-one classes. Students should read the introduction below and then guess the answers. The correct answers are highlighted in green. The definitions of potentially difficult vocabulary for B2 students is also given after each question.

Did you know that the fashion industry can be very damaging to the environment? The term "fast fashion" means making clothes quickly and cheaply, using low-quality materials. This causes a lot of waste and poor working conditions. This quiz will reveal some shocking statistics about the fast fashion industry.

1. How much clothing is dumped in UK landfill in a single calendar year?  
 a. 5 million items    b. 35 million items    **c. 235 million items**    d. 35 billion items

to dump = to throw into the dump (noun) which is the place where rubbish is deposited  
 landfill = a place where rubbish is buried

2. The average American is estimated to discard how much clothing each year?  
 a. 3 kilograms    b. 6 kilograms    c. 12 kilograms    **d. 23 kilograms**

to discard = to throw away / to get rid of

3. What percentage of the world's pesticides and insecticides are used on cotton production?  
 a. 2-5%    **b. 18-25%**    c. 38-50%    d. 78-90%

4. What percentage of plastic microfibers in the oceans comes from clothes and textiles?  
 a. ≈10%    b. ≈33%    **c. ≈85%**    d. ≈99%

5. How long could clothing manufactured with polyester take to completely break down?  
 a. 20 years    **b. 200 years**    c. 2,000 years    d. it never breaks down

to break down = to decompose

6. Of all new clothing bought, how much is disposed of within the first 12 months?  
**a. 1 in 4 items**    b. 1 in 8 items    c. 1 in 16 items    d. 1 in 32 items

to dispose of = to throw away / to get rid of

7. How many clothing items are consumed annually around the world?  
 a. 600 million    b. 7 billion    **c. 80 billion**    d. 900 billion

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8. How much of the clothing purchased in the West is produced abroad?  
 a. hardly any (4%)   b. one third (33%)   c. one half (49%)   **d. almost all of it (97%)**

the West = North America and Western Europe

9. What percentage of clothing donated to charity for resale actually gets resold?  
**a. 10-20%**   b. 20-30%   c. 50-60%   d. 90-100%

These answers are given to the absolute best of our knowledge and obtained from:

<https://thegreenhubonline.com/2018/01/16/20-facts-about-the-fast-fashion-industry-that-will-shock-you/>  
 (this website is in no way affiliated with **eslhome**). If you have extra time at this point in the class, you may wish to open this site for further discussion.

### Speaking II: **Read the problems on the left and the solutions on the right. Speaking together, match the problems to the solutions.**

This activity is designed to provoke further discussion on the topic, and also to show that there are things that individuals can do to improve the situation. It is not designed to make students feel guilty.

too many clothes get thrown away	· don't fall for short-lived fashion <u>crazes</u> ;
<u>sweatshop</u> workers are underpaid	· <u>trim, dye &amp; redesign</u> older clothes for current trends
recycling can consume a lot of energy	· do your own recycling; compost 100% cotton clothes;
clothes have a very short <u>lifespan</u>	· <u>give old clothes a new life</u> (use sheets as <u>cloths</u> , etc.)
people buy clothes for a single use	· buy fewer, but higher-quality clothes;
trends come and go in a matter of weeks	· buy clothes produced with higher-quality materials
	· lease clothes for special events and <u>fancy dress</u> ;
	· borrow clothes and costumes from friends
	· fix broken clothes; try to <u>upcycle</u> unwanted clothes;
	· take clothes you no longer wear to second-hand shops
	· shop at fair trade companies;
	· support national production of clothing

Students may have trouble with the underlined terms, which are defined below:

- **craze** = trend that is popular for a short time
- to **trim** = to cut or decorate clothing
- to **dye** = to colour with a dye (liquid colour)
- **sweatshop** = factory with very poor conditions
- **cloths** = pieces of material ·not to be confused with 'clothes'
- **lifespan** = length of time a product is usable
- **fancy dress** = costume worn for a special occasion
- **upcycle** = find a new purpose for an old item

### Speaking III: **Correct the previous activity with your teacher. Then, answer the questions.**

This activity is designed to get students speaking for the rest of the class. Also encourage them to use vocabulary that they have learnt.

1. Were you surprised by the statistics in the **Quiz** activity?
2. Were you aware of the problems mentioned in the **Speaking II** activity?
3. Do you think that you could include any of the solutions from **Speaking II** in your life?