

# Fast Fashion

## The Environment

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

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**.

something that has already been used	take something temporarily	lots of / piles of	rent something (for a set amount of time)
follow / stay current with	not anymore	give to someone else, often a family member	give something temporarily

- 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 rent 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.

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.

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

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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
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
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
7. How many clothing items are consumed annually around the world?  
a. 600 million              b. 7 billion              c. 80 billion              d. 900 billion
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%)
9. What percentage of clothing donated to charity shops for resale actually gets resold?  
a. 10-20%              b. 20-30%              c. 50-60%              d. 90-100%

### Speaking II:

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

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

### Speaking III:

**Correct the previous activity with your teacher.  
Then, answer the questions.**

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?