

# Intermediate English Reading & Speaking Handout

## Fast Fashion and Smart Clothes Choices

中級英文 B1 閱讀與口說講義 | Topic: fast fashion, second-hand clothes, clothing waste

### Teacher Notes 教學重點

- Level: Intermediate / B1
- Class time: 60-90 minutes
- Skills: reading longer paragraphs, giving opinions, comparing choices, discussing environmental problems
- Current topic: fast fashion, clothing waste, second-hand clothes, repair, smart shopping

### Warm-up Questions 暖身口說

- How often do you buy new clothes?
- Do you follow fashion trends online?
- Have you ever bought second-hand clothes?
- What do you usually do with clothes you do not wear anymore?

### A. Vocabulary 單字解析

| Word         | Part  | 中文    | Easy meaning                                     | Example                                             |
|--------------|-------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| fast fashion | n.    | 快時尚   | cheap clothes that are made and sold quickly     | Fast fashion makes new styles easy to buy.          |
| trend        | n.    | 流行趨勢  | a popular style or idea for a short time         | This jacket is a new trend online.                  |
| textile      | n.    | 紡織品   | cloth or fabric used to make clothes             | Old textiles can be hard to recycle.                |
| garment      | n.    | 衣物    | one piece of clothing                            | Each garment has a hidden cost.                     |
| landfill     | n.    | 垃圾掩埋場 | a place where rubbish is buried                  | Many unwanted clothes end up in landfill.           |
| durable      | adj.  | 耐用的   | strong and able to last a long time              | A durable jacket can be worn for years.             |
| repair       | v./n. | 修補    | to fix something broken                          | I can repair this button by myself.                 |
| second-hand  | adj.  | 二手的   | used by another person before                    | She bought a second-hand coat.                      |
| donate       | v.    | 捐贈    | to give something to help other people           | We donate clean clothes every year.                 |
| consume      | v.    | 消費；使用 | to buy or use something                          | People consume more clothes than before.            |
| microplastic | n.    | 微塑膠   | very small pieces of plastic                     | Some clothes can release microplastics when washed. |
| circular     | adj.  | 循環的   | designed to be used again, repaired, or recycled | A circular system keeps products in use longer.     |

### B. Reading 1 | A Shirt for One Party

Mandy is invited to a birthday party on Saturday. She wants something new to wear, so she checks a shopping app. A bright green shirt is on sale. It is cheap, trendy, and can arrive tomorrow. Mandy buys it without thinking very much.

At the party, many people say the shirt looks nice. Mandy feels happy, but after one wash, the shirt changes shape. The fabric feels thin, and one small part begins to tear. Mandy puts it at the back of her closet. She knows she will probably not wear it again.

On Monday, Mandy's English teacher asks the class to discuss fast fashion. The teacher says some clothes are made to follow trends quickly, but they may not last long. Mandy thinks about her green shirt. It was cheap, but it was not really a good deal if she only wore it once.

Mandy decides to ask herself three questions before buying clothes: Do I really need it? Can I wear it many times? Will it last? These questions do not stop her from enjoying fashion. They help her buy with more care.

## Reading Check

Why does Mandy buy the green shirt?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

What happens after Mandy washes the shirt?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

What three questions does Mandy decide to ask before buying clothes?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## C. Dialog Practice □說對話

### Dialog 1 | Before Buying

|              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Mandy</b> | This shirt is only 199 dollars.      |
| <b>Tina</b>  | Do you really need another shirt?    |
| <b>Mandy</b> | Maybe not, but it is trendy.         |
| <b>Tina</b>  | Will you wear it more than once?     |
| <b>Mandy</b> | Good question. I should think first. |

### Dialog 2 | Talking About Quality

|              |                                                    |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Kevin</b> | This jacket costs more, but it feels stronger.     |
| <b>Jay</b>   | Maybe it is more durable.                          |
| <b>Kevin</b> | So it may last longer?                             |
| <b>Jay</b>   | Exactly. A cheap item is not always a better deal. |

### Dialog 3 | At a Clothing Swap

|              |                                             |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tina</b>  | I did not expect to find nice clothes here. |
| <b>Mandy</b> | Me neither. This bag is almost new.         |
| <b>Tina</b>  | Second-hand clothes can still look good.    |
| <b>Mandy</b> | And we do not need to buy something new.    |

### Dialog 4 | Repairing Clothes

|                |                                                |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Student</b> | My button is missing.                          |
| <b>Teacher</b> | You can repair it in the repair corner.        |
| <b>Student</b> | I don't know how to sew.                       |
| <b>Teacher</b> | No problem. Kevin can show you the first step. |

### Dialog 5 | Giving an Opinion

|                |                                                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Teacher</b> | Should schools teach students about fast fashion?               |
| <b>Mandy</b>   | I think so. It connects English, money, and the environment.    |
| <b>Teacher</b> | Can you give an example?                                        |
| <b>Mandy</b>   | Students can learn words like durable, repair, and second-hand. |

## C. Reading 2 | The Hidden Cost of Cheap Clothes

Cheap clothes can look like a simple bargain, but the real cost is not only the price tag. Clothes need materials, water, energy, workers, transport, and packaging. When people buy more clothes and wear them for less time, waste grows quickly.

Reports from environmental organizations say the fashion and textile sector creates pollution and waste at many stages. Some clothes use synthetic materials. When they are washed, tiny plastic fibers can enter water systems. Dyeing fabric can also use chemicals and water.

Another problem is what happens after people stop wearing clothes. Some garments are donated, repaired, or sold second-hand. However, many are burned or sent to landfill. Recycling clothes into new clothes is still difficult, especially when fabrics are mixed.

This does not mean students must stop buying clothes. It means they can become smarter consumers. They can choose durable clothes, repair small problems, buy second-hand, borrow clothes for special events, or simply buy less often.

### Reading Check

Why is the real cost of cheap clothes more than the price tag?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

What can synthetic clothes release when they are washed?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name two smarter choices mentioned in the reading.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## D. Reading 3 | A Clothing Swap at School

After learning about fast fashion, Mandy's class plans a clothing swap. Students bring clean clothes they do not wear anymore. The clothes must be in good condition. Each student can take home one or two items for free.

At first, some students feel shy. They think second-hand clothes may not be cool. But when they see the table, they change their minds. There are jackets, T-shirts, bags, and scarves. Kevin finds a black jacket that fits him well. Tina chooses a scarf for her mother.

The class also opens a small repair corner. One student knows how to sew a button. Another student teaches classmates how to cover a small hole with a patch. The repair corner becomes popular because students enjoy learning a useful skill.

At the end of the day, the class has fewer unwanted clothes and more ideas. Mandy says, 'Fashion can be creative without being wasteful.' Her teacher smiles and says that a better system keeps clothes in use for longer.

## Reading Check

What do students bring to the clothing swap?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do some students change their minds about second-hand clothes?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

What does the repair corner teach students to do?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## F. Speaking Practice 口說練習

### Useful Speaking Frames

- In my opinion, fast fashion is \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A cheap item is not always a good deal because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Before buying clothes, I should ask myself \_\_\_\_\_.
- One way to reduce clothing waste is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Compared with buying new clothes, second-hand clothes \_\_\_\_\_.
- Schools can help students by \_\_\_\_\_.

### 1. Pair Interview

- What clothing item did you buy recently?
- Was it a need or a want?
- What makes clothes worth buying?
- Would you join a clothing swap? Why or why not?
- How can students reduce clothing waste?

### 2. Role-play: Shopping Decision

Student A: You want to buy a trendy but low-quality shirt.

Student B: You ask three questions before Student A buys it.

Change roles and use a different item.

### 3. Mini Debate

Topic: Schools should hold a clothing swap every semester.

Group A: Agree. Give two reasons.

Group B: Disagree or give concerns. Give two reasons.

### 4. Short Talk

Talk for 45 seconds: One smart clothing choice I can make is...

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## G. Quiz 練習題

1. Vocabulary: Cheap clothes made and sold quickly are called \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Vocabulary: A place where rubbish is buried is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Vocabulary: Clothes that last a long time are \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Reading 1: Mandy buys a green shirt for a \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Reading 2: Synthetic clothes can release tiny plastic \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Reading 3: Students bring clean clothes to a clothing \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Speaking: Give one question to ask before buying clothes.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Speaking: Give one way to reduce clothing waste.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Writing: Write one sentence about second-hand clothes.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Discussion: Is fast fashion good or bad? Give one reason.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## H. Answer Key 答案

## Reading Check

Why does Mandy buy the green shirt? - She wants something new for a birthday party, and the shirt is cheap and trendy.

What happens after Mandy washes the shirt? - It changes shape, feels thin, and starts to tear.

What three questions does Mandy decide to ask before buying clothes? - Do I really need it? Can I wear it many times? Will it last?

Why is the real cost of cheap clothes more than the price tag? - Because clothes also need materials, water, energy, workers, transport, and packaging.

What can synthetic clothes release when they are washed? - They can release tiny plastic fibers or microplastics.

Name two smarter choices mentioned in the reading. - Possible answers: choose durable clothes, repair clothes, buy second-hand, borrow clothes, buy less often.

What do students bring to the clothing swap? - They bring clean clothes they do not wear anymore.

Why do some students change their minds about second-hand clothes? - They see good items such as jackets, T-shirts, bags, and scarves.

What does the repair corner teach students to do? - It teaches them to sew buttons and cover small holes with patches.

## Quiz

1. Vocabulary: Cheap clothes made and sold quickly are called \_\_\_\_\_. - fast fashion
2. Vocabulary: A place where rubbish is buried is a \_\_\_\_\_. - landfill
3. Vocabulary: Clothes that last a long time are \_\_\_\_\_. - durable
4. Reading 1: Mandy buys a green shirt for a \_\_\_\_\_. - birthday party
5. Reading 2: Synthetic clothes can release tiny plastic \_\_\_\_\_. - fibers / microplastics
6. Reading 3: Students bring clean clothes to a clothing \_\_\_\_\_. - swap
7. Speaking: Give one question to ask before buying clothes. - Do I really need it? / Can I wear it many times? / Will it last?
8. Speaking: Give one way to reduce clothing waste. - Repair clothes. / Buy second-hand. / Buy less often. / Donate clothes.
9. Writing: Write one sentence about second-hand clothes. - Second-hand clothes can save money and reduce waste.
10. Discussion: Is fast fashion good or bad? Give one reason. - Answers will vary.

## Source Notes 教材參考來源

This handout is original classroom material rewritten for Intermediate / CEFR B1 learners.

- European Parliament information was used for textile consumption, waste, pollution, and recycling background.
- UNEP textile information was used for the idea that fashion has environmental impacts across its lifecycle.
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation circular fashion information was used for reuse, repair, resale, and circular design concepts.

- European Parliament Fast fashion: EU laws for sustainable textile consumption:  
<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20201208STO93327/tekstiles-gamybos-ir-atlieku-poveikis-aplinkai-infografikas>
- UNEP Sustainable and circular textiles: <https://www.unep.org/topics/chemicals-and-pollution-action/circularity-sectors/sustainable-and-circular-textiles>
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation Circular Fashion overview:  
<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/fashion/overview/>