

File Test 8
Reading and Writing A

READING

1 Read the blog posting and check (✓) A, B, or C.

Sara's blog

Welcome to my blog where I talk about "slow" fashion — the art of buying less and wearing more thoughtfully!

This week, we're focusing on the 10 x 10 challenge, which was originally created by ethical fashion blogger "Style Bee" in 2015, and is now a global trend online. The rules are simple: choose ten items of clothing and wear them for ten days. You are allowed to add accessories, of course, but shoes are included in your choice of ten.

Planning the challenge was a lot of fun. I'd seen other bloggers' outfits from last year, and after that I was sure I'd be able to make it through the ten days. After all, I do have a lot of hats and scarves! Finally, I decided on a pair of skinny black jeans (obviously), two pairs of shoes (one flat and one with heels), one dress shirt, two more casual tops, a warm gray sweater, my favorite denim skirt, and a pair of baggy brown pants that my friend Beth lent me.

So, how did it go? Well, you can see the outfits I wore each day (arranged on my sofa) on my Instagram feed. You can't see me, but the clothes tell their own story. Beth's pants were easily my favorite item. I wouldn't normally wear something this shape, but they were very easy to style with different "looks."

Overall, I think I was successful, but I made some mistakes, which you can avoid! I planned too much. It would have been better to leave one item free as a "wild card" to decide during the week itself. The weather in Philadelphia was freezing. I would happily have traded one pair of shoes for a warm coat. In the end, I cheated and wore exercise clothes after work to stay warm. (I'm not sure if they're included in the challenge, but Style Bee does say that having fun is more important than following the rules!)

I think people who complete the challenge will think differently about clothes. If you read my blog regularly you will know that I love exploring the thrift stores in Philadelphia. I love wearing old clothes and creating my colorful outfits (it's a thrill knowing that no one else has the same thing). But the 10 x 10 challenge reminds us not to shop at all—or at least to think about the purpose of our clothes rather than just their individuality. Over the next year, I intend to only shop for accessories and to trade more clothes with my friends.

Example: Sara's blog is about _____ fashion.

A cheap B current C slow

1 Sara encourages her readers to _____.

A shop less B talk more C wear more clothes

2 _____ aren't included in the choice of ten items.

A Shoes B Scarves C Shirts

3 Looking at _____ made Sara confident that she would succeed.

A the rules of the challenge B her clothes C challenge photos online

4 The brown pants were _____.

A from a thrift store B not Sara's usual style C made by a friend

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- 5 Sara says other people should _____ before the challenge.
A plan more B choose three colors C only choose nine items
- 6 Sara had to wear _____ because of the cold weather.
A the gray sweater B exercise clothes C a coat
- 7 Style Bee says that _____ isn't that important during the 10 x 10.
A being fashionable B following the rules C having a good time
- 8 Sara often tells her readers about _____ in her city.
A shopping in thrift stores B what other people wear C exploring
- 9 Sara wants to think more about _____ of her clothes.
A the colors B the creativity C the purpose

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2 Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

Example: The 10 x 10 challenge was created by a fashion blogger. T

- 1 The challenge asks people to throw away ten items from their wardrobes. _____
- 2 Sara owns a lot of accessories. _____
- 3 Sara has posted photos of herself during the challenge. _____
- 4 Sara felt she had too many shoes in her selection. _____
- 5 Sara enjoys wearing things that aren't the same as other people's. _____
- 6 Sara thinks the challenge will encourage people to shop more in thrift stores. _____

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Reading total		15
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WRITING

Write a blog post about a good / bad / unusual shopping experience. (140–180 words)

Writing total		10
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Reading and Writing total		25
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