

The T-Shirt Reading Exercise

Read the text and do the true / false below.

THE HISTORY OF THE T-SHIRT

White cotton T-shirts were first worn by the US Navy in the Second World War and by 1948, every American soldier was wearing one too. But it was Hollywood films that made the T-shirt really popular—actors Marlon Brando and James Dean wore classic white T-shirts in "On the Waterfront" (1954) and "Rebel without a Cause" (1955). After these films every young man wanted to wear one.



Women didn't begin to wear T-shirts until the end of the 1950s. In the 1959 French film "A bout de souffle" (Breathless), American actress Jean Seberg wore a T-shirt advertising an English language newspaper. This started a new fashion in T-shirts for women, but it wasn't until the mid-1960s that companies like Budweiser and Coca Cola started using T-shirts as walking advertisements.

Later, the T-shirt became a way of saying something important. For example, soon after the black American leader Angela Davis went to prison in 1970, people all around the world were wearing T-shirts with the message "Free Angela".

In the 1970s, French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent designed a famous blue T-shirt with his name in white letters. Giorgio Armani has also used T-shirts in his fashion shows. And in 2001, a limited number of white "J'adore Dior" T-shirts sold quickly at well over £100 each!

Write True or False next to the sentences

1 In the 1940s, white T-shirts were part of a uniform.	TRUE	FALSE
2 T-shirts became more popular because of two 1950s American films.	TRUE	FALSE
3 Many women were wearing T-shirts in 1955.	TRUE	FALSE
4 By 1960, companies were using T-shirts to advertise their products.	TRUE	FALSE
5 In 1970, a T-shirt with the words "Free Angela" won a prize.	TRUE	FALSE
6 Giorgio Armani included the T-shirt in his 1970s designs.	TRUE	FALSE
7 In 2001, one "J'adore Dior" Christian Dior T-shirt cost almost £100	TRUE	FALSE

