



Purpose: I will record in my notebook the essence of the information on how to contrast different texts and will do exercises about this.

Fast Fashion

Clothes shopping used to be an occasional event – something that happened a few times a year when the seasons changed, or we outgrew what we had. But about 20 years ago something changed. Clothes became cheaper, trend cycles sped up and shopping became a form of entertainment. Enter Fast Fashion – and the global chains that now dominate our high streets and online. Fast fashion can be defined as cheap, trendy clothing, that samples ideas from the catwalk or celebrity culture and turns them into garments in high street stores at breakneck speed.

For many shoppers, Primark has an irresistible offer: trendy clothes at astonishingly low prices. The result is a new and even faster kind of fast fashion, which encourages consumers to buy heaps of items, discard them after a few wears and then come back for another batch of new outfits. — The Economist

To understand how Fast Fashion came to be, we need to rewind a tiny bit. Before the 1800s, fashion was slow. You had to source your own materials like wool or leather, prepare them, weave them and then make the clothes. The Industrial Revolution introduced new technology – like the sewing machine. Clothes became easier, quicker and cheaper to make. Dressmaking shops emerged to cater for the middle classes. By the 1960s and 70s, young people were creating new trends and clothing became a form of personal expression, but there was still a distinction between high fashion and high street. In the late 1990s and 2000s, low-cost fashion reached its zenith. Online shopping took off, and Fast Fashion retailers like H&M, Zara and Topshop took over the high street. These brands took the looks and design elements from the top fashion houses and reproduced them quickly and cheaply. With everyone now able to shop for on-trend clothes whenever they wanted, it's easy to understand how the phenomenon caught on.

Many of the retailers that we know today as Fast Fashion big players, like Zara or H&M, started as smaller shops in Europe around the 1950s. It's when Zara landed in New York at the beginning of 1990s, that people first heard the term "Fast Fashion". It was coined by the New York Times to describe Zara's mission to only take 15 days for a garment to go from the design stage to being sold in stores.

Other big names in Fast Fashion today include UNIQLO, GAP, Primark and TopShop, but while these brands were once seen as radically cheap disruptors, there now are even cheaper and faster alternatives, like Missguided, Forever 21, Zaful, Boohoo and more recently, Fashion Nova.

<https://goodenyou.co>

Identify the differences, contrasting this text to the one in the previous exercise (PERSONALISATION IN FASHION) and write sentences using the contrast clue words (VIDEO)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____