

THE T-SHIRT

Read the text and fill in the blanks with an appropriate word.

The T-shirt is a simple item (1) _____ clothing. It is called a T-shirt because it is just (2) _____ a capital T in shape, with a round neck and short sleeves. Most of us (3) _____ worn one at some stage in our lives, and most people keep quite (4) _____ few in their wardrobe. This is because T-shirts are cheap to buy, easy to look after and hard-wearing. Some people use old ones that are (5) _____ shabby to wear as cleaning rags, others use oversized ones to sleep in. Also, (6) _____ of the logos that appear on them, people use them to tell the world where they've been on holiday, (7) _____ is their favorite football team or band, or even something about their political views.

The T-shirt began life, many centuries (8) _____, as underclothing. It was intended to protect delicate skins (9) _____ rough outer clothing, and was definitely (10) _____ designed to be seen. Nineteenth-century sailors were the first to turn part of their underwear (11) _____ outerwear. The United States Navy uniform included a V-necked pullover cut to reveal an undershirt. It wasn't (12) _____ the 1940s, however, that sailors began to wear a cotton T-shirt (13) _____ the pullover on top.

In the 1950s, the T-shirt was then taken up by Hollywood movie stars (14) _____ thought it gave them a cool, "tough guy" image. Suddenly almost (15) _____ young man wanted one, although it (16) _____ a few more years for the T-shirt to become common dress for women.

