

ENGLISH FILE UPPER INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

UNIT 2 B

GRAMMAR

1 Choose the correct word(s).

Example: Traffic lights often make sounds to help **the blinds** / **the blind** cross the road.

1 **Poor** / **The poor** seem to be suffering the most from government cuts.

2 I met a **Chinese** / **Chinese man** who was really interesting.

3 Politicians should listen to **the young** / **young** because they are the future of this country.

4 We need to do more as a society to take care of **elderly** / **the elderly** people.

5 **The Japanese** / **Japanese** have many important cultural traditions.

6 In some towns there isn't enough accommodation for **homeless** / **the homeless**.



2 Order the words to make sentences. Write them below! Start with a

capital letter and put a period at the end.

Example: pizza / like / extra / with / large / ordering / feel / I / a / cheese / !

I feel like ordering a large pizza with extra cheese!

1 brother / smart / had / linen / my / on / a / suit / younger / new

2 little / found / eat / restaurant / lovely / we / Greek / a / in / to

3 have / horrible / bandage / white / wear / a / big / to / I / !

4 little / was / on / wooden / hill / beautiful / there / old / a / the / house

5 the / some / red / I / boots / market / nice / at / bought / leather / very

VOCABULARY



1 Choose the correct word(s).

Example: I only like natural materials – I never wear **lycra/ linen**.

- 1 Wow! I've never seen you looking so **scruffy/ smart**. Are you going to a job interview?
- 2 The taxi's coming in 15 minutes, so **get dressed/ dress up**!
- 3 I need this dress in a bigger size – it's too **loose/ tight**.
- 4 You'll need some **lycra/ velvet** shorts if you want to do some serious cycling.
- 5 This top looks a bit **old-fashioned/ classic**. My grandmother might like it though!
- 6 That jacket is the perfect colour – it **suits/ matches** your trousers.
- 7 Lisa prefers **striped/ plain** clothes without any pattern.
- 8 I don't think these boots really **go with/ fit** my jeans.

READING

Read the article about a future fashion invention. Five sentences have been removed. Which sentence (A–F) fits each gap (1–5)? There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Introducing ... the fashion of the future

Mushrooms ... most people either love them or hate them. But if they're not your idea of a tasty meal, why not try wearing them? Sound weird? Well, yes, until you hear more about the science. Believe it or not, scientists have recently developed a variety of useful materials using mushrooms, or at least their mycelium – the long hair-like fibres, or roots, which allow them to grow and spread. (---- 1 ----) The resulting fibres can be made into cloth, which can be used for clothing and accessories. This is why mushrooms might just be the next big thing in fashion.

The process is quite simple. Rather than taking wild mycelium from the ground, it is possible to produce it in a laboratory within three or four weeks. It is then grown over a specially shaped structure designed to create the desired product. The resulting material can be as thin as paper for lightweight fabrics, or thick like leather for items such as shoes and accessories. Whatever its thickness, it is always incredibly strong and flexible.

Several fashion designers have already developed products made from mycelium. For example, Dutch designer Aniela Hoitink created a dress made from disc-shaped pieces of a flexible, mycelium fabric, which she called MycoTex. She grew the mycelium in round dishes to produce the discs and then joined them by 'growing' them together to create a thin fabric which she wrapped around a 3D model to create the dress. The advantage of this type of creation is that material for clothes can be grown to fit a particular body shape or size, rather than cut from a larger piece of fabric. (---- 2 ----) Nor does mycelium clothing have to go to landfill. Artist Erin Smith made her own wedding dress from mycelium mixed with agricultural waste and then composted it in her garden after she'd worn it. Her aim was to prove that wedding dresses needn't end up being an expensive purchase that is worn just once and then hangs in your wardrobe forever after.

The ability to safely reuse or throw away mycelium clothing is a big environmental advantage. In addition, mycelium is fast-growing, non-toxic, organic, carbon-neutral, and inexpensive to produce. Tests by Italian design company Mogu have shown that mycelium fabric is both waterproof and fire-resistant, making it extremely useful. Perhaps best of all, only a very small amount of water is required to grow it. (---- 3 ----) According to designers, clothing made from mycelium can also be easily repaired. This should be especially appealing to customers who are trying to live a zero-waste lifestyle. The added bonus is the fact that mushrooms are biodegradable so material made from mycelium breaks down naturally in the environment. (---- 4 ----) In fact, some mycelium materials can even be fed to farm animals. And speaking of farm animals, many consumers are against the idea of supporting intensive animal farming as it has a massive environmental impact. Mycelium can be made very strong and durable, and therefore it offers a vegan alternative to animal leather.

While many people might feel horrified or disgusted by the idea of clothing themselves in mushroom fabric, mycelium is safe and healthy to wear. No toxic chemicals are used in its production, and it is naturally anti-bacterial so your sweaty gym clothes won't cause discomfort or skin rashes. And you needn't worry, your new clothing won't start growing mushrooms in the rain; it has been baked at a high temperature to prevent that from happening. There are many reasons why we should all be wearing mycelium-based clothing, but will it become as popular as mainstream clothing in the future? (---- 5 ----)

- A As a result, there is no fabric waste in comparison to traditional clothes manufacturing.
- B That depends on whether consumers are open-minded enough to try it.
- C While it takes over 2,500 litres of water to produce a single cotton T-shirt, only 12 litres were required to produce Hoitink's mycelium dress.
- D The innovative new fabric has been worn by several popular celebrities.
- E In the natural world, this growth happens rapidly and requires very little water.
- F So, once you're finished with a piece of clothing like Erin Smith, you can simply throw it in your compost bin or dig it into your garden.