

Reading

1 Discuss these questions.

- 1 Would you like to go to a fashion show?
Why/Why not?
- 2 Would you like to design your own clothing?
Why/Why not?

2 Read the article quickly. What similarities are there between Josh and Emma, according to the article?

3 Read the article again. Are these sentences True (T) or False (F)? Write the number of the line(s) where you found the answer.

- 1 Joshua Birch first designed clothes for his mother. T/F
- 2 Joshua sometimes has fashion shows in Europe. T/F
- 3 Josh's friend doesn't understand why Josh wants to be a fashion designer. T/F
- 4 Emma Kenyon analyses what fashion is popular before she designs new clothes. T/F
- 5 She loves looking at people wearing her clothes on social media. T/F
- 6 Emma's advice is to concentrate on one specific subject at school. T/F
- 7 She thinks it's important to get a well-paid job when you first start in fashion. T/F

4 What do the underlined words in the text mean? Guess and then check in your dictionary.

5 Critical thinkers

In your opinion, does fashion have a more positive or negative effect on life?

What makes you say that?

Use ideas from the text and other information to justify your opinion. Then share your ideas.

Reach higher

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YOUNG FASHION DESIGNERS

Have you ever stopped to think about who made your jeans, or who designed the logo on that sweatshirt you're wearing? Maybe not. Have you ever seen a fashion show or heard a designer talking about their latest collection of clothes?

Perhaps on TV. Most people haven't met a fashion designer, so here are two young designers to show us what it's like.

Joshua Birch Jones has been interested in fashion since he was four years old. When he was younger, he liked drawing his mother's dresses. He drew them and then created his own versions of them. Now, at the age of 14, he's designed and made 46 evening dresses – three collections – which he's shown in London, Amsterdam and Ireland. His most famous dress is a red ballgown that uses 25 metres of material.

Josh lives near London with his mother and he designs and makes clothes at home. When he's not designing clothes, Josh is a normal teenager who goes to school and likes spending time hanging out with his best friend, Fred. At first, Fred thought it was strange that Josh wanted to be a fashion designer, but now Fred has learned more about fashion and he can see why Josh likes it so much. Josh tries to design dresses that make women feel confident so they want to wear them. He believes that fashion is one of life's little luxuries.

Emma Kenyon is another young fashion designer – the fashion brand she works for designs men's and women's clothes. The first thing she does every morning is check which clothes are selling the best. That helps her plan the new designs she's working on. She also spends a lot of time on social media. She says that the best part of her job is seeing people on Instagram® on a night out wearing the dresses that she's designed.

Emma advises young people to work hard in all school subjects so they'll have better chances of work in the future. It's also important to get experience. Emma's worked for two different department stores in the past, where she learned how to invent patterns and how to design on a computer. Have you ever thought about working in fashion? If so, she says you should get in touch with companies and offer to work for free doing work experience. She thinks it's a great way to learn.

What's interesting about Josh and Emma is that as well as their love for fashion, they both talk about enjoying making people happy through the clothes they make. They're also aware that they need to keep learning. Perhaps that's why they've both become successful at such a young age.

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