Fast Fashion (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the following questions.

1. Have you got a lot of clothes?

2. Do you think it's important to follow the latest fashions? Why (not)?

3. Do you enjoy shopping for clothes?

4. Do you usually buy your clothes in shops or online? Why?

5. Do you prefer to buy a few expensive items or a larger number of cheaper items? Why?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Soon after a fashion show, shops like Zara and H&M have cheaper versions of the new models.
2. Nowadays, many people only wear their clothes a few times before throwing them away.
3. Clothes became cheaper to produce in the early 20th century.
4. The global fashion industry produces nearly as much CO_2 as all international flights.
5. The online clothes seller Shein puts about a thousand new items a week on its website.
6. The article advises young people to keep their clothes for longer.

C – Read and answer

Listen again to the article and answer the questions.

1. How much is the fast fashion industry worth?

2. How was people's attitude to clothes different in the past? Why?

3. What has shopping for clothes become for many people now?

4. Why does the global fashion industry have such a negative impact on the environment?

5. Why is Shein popular among young people?

6. What percentage of the world's fast fashion sales does Shein obtain?

7. What other criticisms are made of the company, besides its impact on the environment?

8. What alternatives are there for people who don't want to support fast fashion?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. The boys tried to _____ that they'd stolen sweets from the shop, but we saw them do it.
2. When you buy goods online, you sometimes have to pay _____ costs.
3. Personal computers used to be very expensive. Now they're much more _____.
4. A _____ is a shop or person that sells goods to the public.
5. The restaurant has a fixed-price menu. You can choose _____ _____ three dishes for £25.
6. I didn't recognise Julie at first. She's slimmer and she's _____ her hair red.

GLOSSARY
affordable: economici, convenienti
pollutants: inquinanti
fewer items: meno articoli
shipping: trasporto
dying: tingere, colorare
retailers: rivenditori
to engage in: dedicarsi a
up to: fino a
for as little as: per appena, per un prezzo di soli
to account for: rappresentare
to fuel: alimentare
forced labour: lavoro forzato
to deny: negare
altogether: in totale

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

The clothes that our great-grandparents wore were made from animal-based or plant-based materials such [1]_____ (*of/as/like/with*) wool, leather, cotton and linen. However, after World War II, artificial fibres were invented and, [2]_____ (*though/while/till/since*) these were cheaper and easier to produce, they gradually replaced natural fibres.

If you check the labels on your clothes, you're likely to notice that the fabric that comes up more than [3]_____ (*some/any/all/each*) other is polyester. Polyester is now the most widely produced fibre. In 2022, it [4]_____ (*accounted/counted/increased/reached*) for 54 per cent of the market.

One of the biggest problems with polyester is that its production process damages the environment and can also be [5]_____ (*costly/unhelpful/harmful/harmless*) to workers. Another is that it's a plastic, and it's not biodegradable. The polyester shirt that you [6]_____ (*bring/throw/launch/pass*) into the dustbin could take up to 200 years to decompose!

LIVEWORKSHEETS