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Speaking/Debate Worksheet: Fast Fashion – The True Cost of Clothes (Intermediate-Advanced)

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Preparation Notes for the Teacher

In this fashion vocabulary worksheet, you are going to find ESL conversation exercises that will help students to discuss and debate on the topic of fast fashion, ethical fashion, and sustainability practices in the fashion industry.

The worksheet includes a “For and Against” exercise to help students create constructive arguments that would support their stands in the debate. The exercises are tailored to intermediate-advanced (B2-C1) students

Required time: 45 min

To prepare:

Discuss the topic of fast fashion and sustainability with your students.

At the beginning of the class, ask your students if they have heard about the concepts of fast fashion and ethical fashion and if they know the difference between these two. Then, ask students if they have any idea where the clothes they usually buy are produced and how much their clothes really cost to produce?

Give them a brief introduction on the topic (exploitation of labor, pollution, child labor, consumerism, low quality, non-durable materials).

Play the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLfNUD0-8ts>.

Next, make a “For” and “Against” list together with your students on the topic.

Instruct students to do Exercise B and C.

Finally, divide students into 2 teams and have a “For and Against” debate on the topic “Alternatives to Fast Fashion: A Green Dream of the Near Future?”

Fast Fashion – The True Cost of Clothes

In this worksheet, you will find exercises that will help you learn useful phrases, questions, and conversation tips that you can use when discussing/ debating on topics like fast fashion, ethical fashion, sustainability, etc.

Think about where do you and most people usually buy clothes, Discuss this briefly with your class and your teacher, then answer questions in Exercise A and Exercise B.

Read the questions before answering to make sure you understand them.

EXERCISE A. Fast Fashion (For and Against)

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of fast fashion with your class and teacher, then write them into the table below. Write minimum 5 arguments per column.

FOR	AGAINST

EXERCISE B. True or False?

2. Watch the video  **The true cost of fast fashion | The Economist**, then mark the statements below as True or False.

- 1) To tackle throwaway culture, consumers, and brands must change their behaviors.
- 2) Only low-class people buy fast fashion clothes.
- 3) Rent the Runway tackles the problem with throwaway culture.
- 4) Mohammed dislikes the idea of fast fashion.
- 5) Rent the Runway rents 20% fast fashion clothes.
- 6) Patagonia used to be a fast-fashion brand that turned to sustainability.
- 7) One of Patagonia's mottos is "Don't throw it, fix it."
- 8) Savana Rags is a recycling clothes factory.
- 9) New York fashionista Ijeoma is mostly interested in high-end fashion.
- 10) Most of the 80 billion clothing products go to waste.

EXERCISE C. Vocabulary

3. Match the words/ phrases (a-h) to their meanings (1-8)

a)	castoffs	1)	Items of clothing
b)	to tackle	2)	To deal with something in a determined and efficient way
c)	unprecedented rate	3)	Impressively large or expensive
d)	garments	4)	Something that is no longer wanted (especially a garment)
e)	swanky	5)	The lead store in a retail chain as a showcase for the brand.
f)	to follow suit	6)	Stylishly luxurious and expensive
f)	hefty	7)	To conform to another's actions.
h)	flagship store	8)	Something that is very great in quality, amount or scale.

EXERCISE D. Debate/ Discussion

4. Make 2 teams and have a “For and Against” debate on the topic “Alternatives to Fast Fashion: A Green Dream of the Near Future?” Make sure to support each idea with at least one argument.

Key:

Exercise A

For: Fast Fashion allows for more affordable clothing; People get the latest fashion trends without waiting; There are many retailers and brands to choose from; Fast fashion is accessible both in-store and online for the same price; A lot of people can get jobs in the fast fashion industry; It's great for people who doesn't have a large income, like students and youngsters who can save money on clothes for other expenses.

Against: Fast fashion creates throwaway culture; Fast fashion is a great environmental pollutant as most of the clothes end up in waste; Fast fashion industry makes their clothes in sweats shops that exploit workers who get a low wage and work awful conditions; Fast fashion does not focus on quality but the quantity of clothes; Fast fashion is one of the highest polluting industries in the world.

Exercise B

1 - T, 2 - F, 3 - T, 4 - T, 5 - F, 6- F 7- T 8 - F, 9 - T, 10 - T

Exercise C

a)-4, b)-2, c)-8, d)-1, e)-6, f)-3, g)-7, h)-5