

## Fast fashion is harming the environment

10th February, 2022



Environmentalists are getting more worried about the effects of fast fashion on the environment. Fast fashion is the mass production of clothes at a low cost. They are put in shops and online quickly to create a high demand.

Manufacturers make 100 billion items of clothing every year. This is expected to grow by 60 per cent by 2030. The fast fashion business model is having a negative effect on the environment. Many of the clothes end up in landfills and are not recycled. Another negative effect on the environment is caused by the chemicals used to make the clothes. These cause health problems for people working in clothes factories. There are reports children make many of these clothes.

The way people are buying clothes is adding to the problem of clothing waste. Many years ago, people went to stores and tried clothes on. People took more time and thought more carefully before they bought clothes. They also wore them for longer. Today, people order cheap clothes on the Internet and if they don't like them, they send them back. Some people say this is causing a throwaway society. Some people buy clothes and never even wear them. The German media company Deutsche Welle wrote: "Every year in Europe, four million tons of clothing ends winds up in the trash. Less than one per cent of this is recycled." It seems the fashion industry is not so sustainable.

Sources: [dw.com](http://dw.com) / [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com)

### Writing

We should wear clothes until they get holes in them. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

environmentalist / fast fashion / mass production / clothing / negative / chemicals / waste / cheap / Internet / throwaway / media / society / trash / recycled / industry

### True / False

- 1) Environmentalists are worried about fast and slow fashion. T / F
- 2) Clothes makers make 100 billion items of clothing annually. T / F
- 3) Fast fashion will be 60% bigger by the end of this decade. T / F
- 4) No children are involved in making clothes any more. T / F
- 5) Fast fashion has changed people's shopping habits. T / F
- 6) People used to take their time when they shopped for clothes. T / F
- 7) The article says we all buy clothes that we never wear. T / F
- 8) Less than 1% of clothes thrown away in Europe are recycled. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>worried</b>    | a. create        |
| 2. <b>production</b> | b. impact        |
| 3. <b>items</b>      | c. disposable    |
| 4. <b>effect</b>     | d. manufacturing |
| 5. <b>cause</b>      | e. inexpensive   |
| 6. <b>bought</b>     | f. finishes      |
| 7. <b>cheap</b>      | g. concerned     |
| 8. <b>throwaway</b>  | h. purchased     |
| 9. <b>ends up</b>    | i. reused        |
| 10. <b>recycled</b>  | j. articles      |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about fast fashion?
- c) What is so wasteful about fashion?
- d) What do you think of wearing something just a few times?
- e) How can we recycle clothes?
- f) Have you ever bought clothes and not worn them?
- g) What do you think of buying used clothes?
- h) What questions would you like to ask an environmentalist?

## Phrase Match

1. the mass
  2. This is expected to grow by
  3. a negative effect
  4. the chemicals used to
  5. children make
  6. adding to the problem of
  7. They also wore them
  8. this is causing a throwaway
  9. four million tons of clothing ends
  10. the fashion industry is not
- a. for longer
  - b. on the environment
  - c. production of clothes
  - d. clothing waste
  - e. 60 per cent by 2030
  - f. so sustainable
  - g. many of these clothes
  - h. up in the trash
  - i. make the clothes
  - j. society

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of fashion?
- b) What do you think of fast fashion?
- c) How important is fashion?
- d) How sustainable is fashion?
- e) How long do you keep an item of clothing for?
- f) Should we wear clothes until they get holes in them?
- g) Should we all wear the same clothes?
- h) How fashionable are you?

## Spelling

1. worried about the eefstscf of fast fashion
2. the mass opuictdonr of clothes
3. create a high dnmeda
4. Many of the clothes end up in llsdnialf
5. caused by the eahlcscim
6. working in clothes iacoerstf
7. adding to the problem of clothing aestw
8. thought more lerylafcu
9. before they hugbot clothes
10. a throwaway ticosye
11. one per cent of this is cdcelery
12. the fashion industry is not so abtsilesnau

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. h	7. e	8. c	9. f	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Poisonous Dyes

You think poisonous dyes are the most serious issue concerning fast fashion. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): plastic microfibres, landfills or child labour.

### Role B – Plastic Microfibres

You think plastic microfibres are the most serious issue concerning fast fashion. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): poisonous dyes, landfills or child labour.

### Role C – Landfills

You think landfills are the most serious issue concerning fast fashion. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): plastic microfibres, poisonous dyes or child labour.

### Role D – Child Labour

You think child labour is the most serious issue concerning fast fashion. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): plastic microfibres, landfills or poisonous dyes.

## Speaking – Fashion

Rank these with your partner. Put the most serious issues concerning fast fashion at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Landfills
- Child labour
- Waste
- Water usage
- Poisonous dyes
- Plastic microfibres
- Energy consumption
- Overconsumption

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 T	4 F	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.