



Shopping and Consumer Life

Note-taking: second-hand clothes | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. Do people your age buy second-hand clothes?
2. Why might second-hand shopping be popular?
3. What problems can shoppers have when buying used items?
4. Would you rather buy online or at a market?

Exercise 3 at a glance

In this activity, you will read one factual text and complete notes using information from the text. In the exam, this task is usually worth 7 marks. This practice version includes extra notes to help you build confidence. Use short words or phrases from the text, not your own ideas.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. Why do some people choose second-hand clothes markets?

Second-Hand Clothes Markets

Second-hand clothes markets have become popular in many towns. Some are held in community halls, while others appear as weekend stalls in shopping streets. Shoppers often say they visit because they can save money, find unusual items and reduce waste. A jacket that would be expensive in a high-street shop may cost much less if it has already been worn.

Markets are different from ordinary shops. Customers may need to check sizes carefully, look for missing buttons and examine fabric for damage. There is usually no changing room, so shoppers sometimes measure clothes against something they already own. Sellers may accept cash only, although some now use phone payments to make buying easier.

For teenagers, second-hand shopping can be a way to develop personal style without spending too much. Some shoppers look for branded clothes, but others prefer vintage patterns, sports jackets or festival outfits. The choice changes every week, which makes the market feel less predictable than a normal shop.

There are still risks. Online adverts for second-hand clothes may use old photos, and buyers can be disappointed if an item looks different in real life. At a market, however, shoppers can inspect the item before paying. Supporters say second-hand markets encourage people to think carefully about advertising, brands and how quickly fashion changes.

Some markets also include repair or alteration stalls. A shopper might buy a jacket with sleeves that are too long and then ask someone to adjust it. This makes second-hand shopping more flexible, especially for people who find standard sizes difficult. Market organisers sometimes run short talks about fast fashion, explaining how buying fewer new clothes can reduce waste. For many teenagers, the attraction is still style, but the environmental message is easy to understand.

Some schools use second-hand markets as a discussion topic in lessons about advertising and consumer habits. Students compare prices, examine labels and consider whether a brand name always means better quality. This makes the topic useful for language work as well as personal finance.

Teachers can turn a market visit into a practical speaking task. Students might ask sellers where items came from, why prices vary and how buyers can check quality. These questions encourage polite communication and help learners use shopping vocabulary in a realistic setting.

3. Strategy focus

Check whether a note is a reason or a problem

Consumer texts often include advantages and disadvantages close together. Use the heading to decide which kind of detail you need.

4. Practice note-taking task

Complete the notes using information from the text. Use short words or phrases from the text. Do not add your own ideas.

Notes	Write short answers
Reasons shoppers visit	- - -
Checks customers may need to make	- - -
Items teenagers may look for	- - -
Risks and advantages	- - -

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases from the text. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: What would make you trust a second-hand seller?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and explain why the surrounding sentence does not need to be copied.
3. Writing: Write advice for a teenager visiting a second-hand market.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to shopping, brands and spending money.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: they can save money, find unusual items and reduce waste.

4. Practice note-taking task

Reasons shoppers visit

- save money
- find unusual items
- reduce waste

Checks customers may need to make

- check sizes carefully
- look for missing buttons
- examine fabric for damage

Items teenagers may look for

- branded clothes
- vintage patterns
- sports jackets

Risks and advantages

- old photos / old photos in online adverts
- inspect the item before paying
- think carefully about advertising

Notes for checking

This is an extended practice version of the IGCSE ESL note-taking task. The live exam normally has fewer marks, but this version includes extra notes to build confidence and selection skills.

Accept short phrases that keep the same meaning.

Learners should avoid copying a whole sentence if a shorter note answers the heading.

Some answers need more than one or two words, especially when the key detail is a phrase.