



Shopping and Consumer Life

Article: should teenagers buy fewer new clothes?

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. Why do teenagers sometimes buy clothes they do not really need?
2. What are the benefits of buying fewer new items?
3. How can people enjoy fashion without wasting money?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write an article, often for a school magazine.
Use a catchy title and opening hook.
Develop ideas with reasons and examples.
Use a semi-formal, engaging style.

2. Exam-style task

Your class has recently discussed whether teenagers should buy fewer new clothes. Write an article for your school magazine about this topic.

Here are some comments from students to help you:

'Trends change so quickly.'
'Buying less would save money.'

'Second-hand clothes can look just as good.'
'People should still be able to express themselves.'

Now write an article for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model article

Fashion Without the Waste

Do we really need a new outfit every time a trend changes? Fashion can be fun, and clothes help people express who they are. However, buying new items constantly can become expensive and wasteful.

One good reason to buy fewer clothes is money. Many teenagers have limited budgets, so spending less on fast-changing trends makes sense. Choosing second-hand clothes, swapping items with friends or re-wearing favourite outfits can still allow people to look stylish without shopping every weekend.

There is also an environmental side. Clothes take resources to produce, transport and wash, so buying less can reduce waste. However, nobody wants to be told that they must stop enjoying fashion completely. Personal style matters, especially for teenagers who are working out their identity.

In my view, the answer is not to give up fashion, but to shop more thoughtfully. Buying better, repairing clothes and choosing second-hand options can make fashion more affordable and responsible. Looking good should not mean throwing money away.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and register

Work with the model article. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Article structure	Find the title, hook, reasons, balance and final view.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer explain money or environmental benefits?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why fashion still matters?	
Final view	Where does the writer suggest a thoughtful approach to shopping?	
Audience and register	Find two places where the article sounds engaging but suitable for a school magazine.	
Development	Find one example, reason or effect that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
reasons to buy less	examples + result language	You are explaining practical benefits of changing habits.	limited budgets / can reduce waste
why fashion matters	balance + identity language	You are showing that the issue is not one-sided.	Personal style matters / express who they are
your view	thoughtful recommendation	You are giving a realistic final message.	shop more thoughtfully / Buying better, repairing clothes...

6. Build an engaging article

Notice how article phrases help you interest the reader and organise ideas clearly.

Job	Useful article phrases
hook the reader	Do we really need a new outfit...? / Fashion without the waste / Can style be more responsible?
add context	Fashion can be fun... / clothes help people express... / trends change quickly
introduce reasons	One good reason is... / spending less... makes sense / can still allow people to...
show balance	However, nobody wants to be told... / Personal style matters / The answer is not to...
show examples	second-hand clothes / swapping items / re-wearing favourite outfits
finish with a view	In my view... / shop more thoughtfully / Looking good should not mean...

7. Vocabulary and useful article phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe shopping	new outfit / trends / limited budgets / second-hand clothes	
describe benefits	save money / reduce waste / more affordable	
describe fashion	personal style / express themselves / look stylish	
sound article-like	Fashion without the waste / throwing money away	
upgrade ideas	thoughtfully / responsible / fast-changing trends	

8. Plan your own article

Use the same task, or change the details to another shopping or consumer issue.

Section	My idea	Useful language
catchy title		
opening hook / context		
reasons to buy less		
why fashion matters too		
final view / suggestion		

