

Unit

1

What's in fashion?



Read the following article from the student newspaper 'Present Times' and answer the questions.

Louisa Au is a young designer who is one of the new faces in fashion. She was one of the few who have won awards for their work. She won 'The Most Creative Designer Award' in last year's fashion competition. Last week, I went to meet her in her **studio**. First of all, I asked her what she thought would be the biggest changes in fashion this year. 'Colour,' Louisa replied immediately.

She went on to explain, 'Black and white has been here for ages, but they can be boring. This year, everybody seems to want something more colourful. So, bright and bold colours are in. Neon colours, such as bright blue, orange and green will appear not only in clothes, but also in handbags and shoes. It is going to be out with the grey and in with the

glitz and **glamour**.' She noticed I was wearing a black jacket and trousers and said, 'You look really well-dressed, but I think you could match the black jacket with something other than a plain white **blouse**.' Louisa was wearing a beautiful mint green top, which was indeed livelier than what was on me. My clothes looked very ordinary. I understood what she meant.



Louisa then went on to talk about another important development in fashion. She said that people are now more aware of the need to protect the environment and, as a result, many designers are thinking more about the way that clothes are made.

Vocabulary highlights

studio (n)
glitz (n)
glamour (n)
blouse (n)

She said, 'There is now a trend towards wearing 'green' clothes. Very few people wear coats that are made with real animal skin now, and more people go for clothes that are made in an environmentally friendly way, such as those made with organic materials, or clothes that support fair trade.' 'Do you think clothes will become more expensive because of this?' I asked her. 'No,' she replied firmly. 'Being green does not mean being greedy. Prices will not go up because of this.'

I noticed she had a couple of drawings on the table next to her. I asked her if they were for her new collection. Louisa said she did not really want to talk about what she was planning, but I discovered that she was designing a dress for someone very famous. 'You will see it at this year's film awards. You will have to wait until then!'

She then got up and walked over to the window. I realized it was time to end the interview but I wanted to ask her one last question. 'Have you got any good tips for students who want to become fashion designers?'

She responded solemnly, 'Try to be original. Don't just **imitate** other designers' ideas. Use your imagination and you will succeed.'

Vocabulary highlights

imitate (v)

A. Choose the best answer. Blacken the circle under the corresponding letter.



- Louisa thinks wearing black and white is _____.
 A. boring
 B. ordinary
 C. fashionable
 D. well-dressed
 A B C D
- Look at the word 'match' in line 16. Now look at the dictionary entry for 'match' below. Which meaning corresponds to the meaning in line 16?

match

- (n) an organized game of football, chess or other sports, e.g., *Are you going to watch the basketball match?*
- (v) having the same or similar qualities, e.g., *Sometimes, their thoughts and actions do not match.*
- (n) a combination of colours or designs that are the same as one another, e.g., *This colour is not a perfect match to her dress.*
- (v) put something together with something else appropriate or harmonious, e.g., *The shirt and trousers do not match.*

A B C D



Grammar Corner

Reflexive pronouns

- A reflexive pronoun often refers back to the subject of the clause. It has singular and plural forms.
 - Singular: *myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself*
 - Plural: *ourselves, yourselves, themselves*
- We use reflexive pronouns for the following purposes:
 - to talk about actions where the subject and object are the same person.
She is looking at herself in the mirror.
We are making trouble for ourselves if we continue to buy pirated goods.
 - to emphasize the subject or object, to mean 'that particular person / thing and nobody / nothing else'
The plastic disc itself does not cost much.
He decided to watch the DVD himself.
- Certain verbs are often used before reflexive pronouns.
Behave yourself!
We have enjoyed ourselves very much at the party.
He introduced himself as 'Mr Johnson'.
- Certain verbs are not often used with reflexive pronouns.
Have you shaved?
Try to concentrate.
Suddenly, the window opened.

Watch out!

We need reflexive pronouns if we want to make it clear who does the action, e.g.,
She is old enough to dress herself now.



Bonus

Reflexive pronouns can also be used to refer to things other than the subject of a clause.

His speeches are all about himself.

I need to tell her something about herself.

C. *There are nine mistakes in the following speech. All of the mistakes are related to the use of reflexive pronouns. Underline the mistake and write the correct form above. The first mistake has been corrected for you as an example.*

Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to talk about the topic of 'piracy'. What do ^{you}yourself think of when you hear this word? The Disney film *Pirates of the Caribbean*? The real-life pirates in Somalia? Or the illegal downloading of music and films from the Internet?



I am sure many of ourselves have downloaded something before: music, films, photos, mobile phone ring tones, software, anything that you can name. The question is, is the material free of charge, or is itself protected by copyrights? Downloading it is not a crime, but downloading information protected by copyrights is.

Teachers and parents keep reminding ourselves that we should not download information from the Internet illegally or buy pirated CDs and DVDs. However, I keep asking me this question, 'Is piracy really so wrong?'

I am not saying people's originality should not be respected, it should be; but is there nothing good about piracy? Think of it in another way, the pirates are actually doing ourselves all a favour — they are providing the low-income earners, or 'no-income earners', like ourselves, with entertainment that ourselves cannot afford otherwise. Moreover, these pirates are using their effort to earn themselves own living.

Nonetheless, a society with 99% creators is certainly better than a society with 99% pirates. So, as educated people us, we should not download illegally.

Let's all support originality and say 'no' to piracy.

Thank you.



Train your
Integrated Skills

A. *Harry and Louise are responsible for the design and decoration of two noticeboards for their school's Open Day. They asked their form teacher, Miss Chan, for some advice. Read the information in the Data File.*

Data File

1. Harry Lee & Louise Wong's note

Dear Miss Chan,

We have to do the design for the two noticeboards in our school hall for the Open Day. The theme is 'Our Future World'.

Since neither of us has experience in board design, we would be most grateful if you could give us some advice on it.

Thanks,
Harry Lee & Louise Wong

2. Miss Chan's reply

Harry and Louise,

For your board display for 'Our Future World', I think you can get a lot of interesting ideas on the Internet. Since you have two boards, you can look at our future in different aspects. You may choose from the following topics:

- Transportation
- Climate and weather
- Communication
- Housing
- Clothing
- Diet
- Entertainment
- Work
- Family
- School
- Technology

Miss Chan

P.S. As you have 2 boards only, try not to cover more than 3 topics.

Writing Platform

Writing a letter of invitation

We generally send an invitation letter for two reasons:

1. to invite people to come to have fun (e.g. a Christmas party or farewell dinner)
2. to do something (e.g. officiate at an opening ceremony or give a talk)

Letters that invite people to have fun are generally much shorter and simpler. Letters that invite people to do something are usually longer and more formal.

Formal letters of invitation need the following:

1. Formal greeting / salutation
Dear Mr Wong,
2. The purpose of writing
I am writing to invite you to officiate at our school opening ...
I write to thank you for agreeing to be our guest speaker ...
3. Details of the event (e.g. date, time, duration, venue, background of the audience), and what you expect the reader to do.
Our Graduation Day will take place on 12 January ...
We would be grateful if you could give a 45-minute talk on ...
4. The name of the contact person and the means of contact.
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact ...
If you need any equipment, feel free to call ...
5. Closing
Yours sincerely,
6. Signature, name in print and position (on different lines)
Eva Cheung
Eva Cheung
President of the Student Union

Watch out!

We do not write to invite somebody who is too busy to come. So, we usually ask the person via email or telephone first. The letter is often used to confirm the arrangements and provide details.



Do	Example
Spell out the words	<i>I'm</i> → <i>I am</i> <i>TV</i> → <i>television</i>
Use complete sentences	<i>Look forward to</i> → <i>I look forward to</i>
Use formal expressions	<i>Thanks</i> → <i>Thank you.</i> <i>lots</i> → <i>a lot of / many</i>
Use formal vocabulary	<i>the kids</i> → <i>the children</i> <i>OK</i> → <i>alright</i>



Supporting your opinions with reasons

When we give our opinion in a discussion, it is very important to give a reason to support our opinion.

We often use the connective *because* to give our reasons. However, there are other connectives we can use, such as *since*, *as*, *because of*, *due to*, *owing to*, etc.

Look at how they should be used:

- *since / as / because* + clause (subject + verb)
We will get fatter because / since / as we do too little exercise.
- *owing to / due to / because of* + noun phrase / pronoun
We will get fatter because of / owing to / due to the lack of exercise.



A. Match the two halves of the following statements.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. We should use handkerchiefs instead of tissue paper since | • | • it can help save lives. |
| 2. It is better to live in the city than in the countryside owing to | • | • we can learn about different cultures and practise speaking English. |
| 3. I think all students should learn First Aid at school because | • | • the convenience. |
| 4. I think talking to foreigners is fun as | • | • the possible harm it can do to our brain and ears. |
| 5. We should avoid talking on the mobile phone for too long due to | • | • the harm it can do to our eyes. |
| 6. We should not spend too much time working on the computer because of | • | • it is more environmentally friendly. |

Elective Module Corner

Non-language Arts
Sports
communication

Understanding sports

A. The following pictures are sports we can find in the Olympic Games. Label them in the spaces provided using the words below.

equestrianism

the hurdles

the pole vault

fencing

the long jump

the relay

figure skating

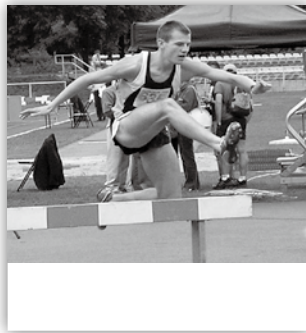
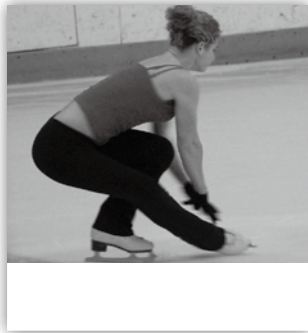
the marathon

the shot put

Vocabulary highlights

equestrianism (n)

hurdle (n)



- A. *Our eyes are important organs. They help us see the world. What can we do if we have problems with our eyes? We have glasses to correct short-sightedness. Can we help people who are colour-blind, or blind? Read the following article to find out.*

Products for the future

Red-green glasses

Colour blindness is the inability to see certain colours and in some **rare** cases, all colours. The most common form is red-green colour blindness, where



people are unable to **distinguish** between red and green. Glasses have now been developed with a coating which fine-tunes the light entering the eyes. They make darker red colours appear brighter and green colours darker so that people who are red-green colour-blind can **contrast** the colours more easily. The effect is that colour-blind people can distinguish the **enhanced** colours better, rather than see them as people with normal colour vision.

The glasses are not a cure for colour blindness, but they will help people with their vision, especially those for whom colour is an important part of their job: electricians who work with different coloured wires, assemblers in factories, cooks and air traffic controllers. These people have to make **crucial** decisions, often connected with the colours they see.

Bionic glasses

Bionic glasses will soon be on sale to help blind people 'see'. A team of researchers in the UK is working on glasses which use cameras the size of a pinhead and a pocket computer. They alert people to the objects and people in front of them. The glasses will help blind people walk around busy streets and shopping centres more safely. It is possible that they will be able to 'read' bus numbers and the displays on automatic teller machines.

Vocabulary highlights

rare (adj)
distinguish (v)
contrast (v)
enhanced (adj)
crucial (adj)