

1.4 Speaking and writing

GOALS ■ Ask for and give opinions ■ Write for social media


Speaking & Listening asking for and giving opinions

- 1 Look at the photos. Which of these do you think could be described as 'guilt-free brands'? Discuss your ideas with a partner.


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THE LATEST CONSUMER TREND:
GUILT-FREE BRANDS

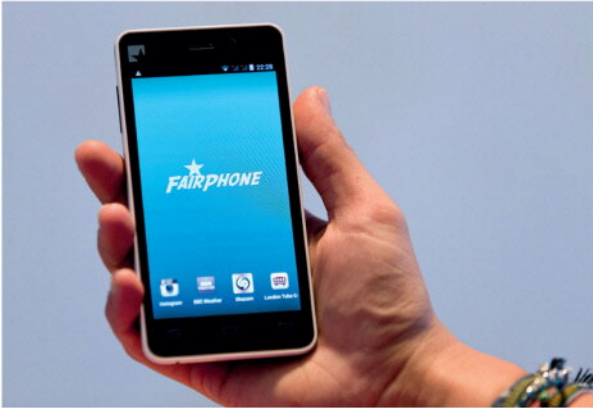
Diamond ring



Tesla electric car



Fairphone



- 2a 1.11))) Listen to a radio programme about guilt-free brands and check your ideas.

- b 1.11))) Listen again and make notes in the table.

Reasons people might feel guilty about what they buy	Arguments in favour of guilt-free brands	Arguments against guilt-free brands

- c Which speaker do you agree with more, Gosia or Jem? Why? Discuss with a partner.

- 3a Complete the phrases from the conversation.

- 1 So, Jem, what do you _____ the idea?
- 2 Well, as _____, anything which makes people think ...
- 3 There's a lot more awareness, but _____ it would be better if ...?
- 4 I'm _____ that if people really understood ...
- 5 Well, _____ the people who make Fairphone ...
- 6 If you _____, we have to give people the option ...

- b 1.12))) Listen and check your answers.

- 4a Divide the phrases in exercise 3 into three categories:

- giving your opinion
- talking about other people's opinions
- asking for someone's opinion

- b Check your answers in the Language for speaking box.

LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING asking for and giving opinions

Giving your opinion

As far as I'm concerned, ... *I'm convinced/certain ...*
If you ask me ... *Personally ...*

Talking about other people's opinions

Some people say that ... *According to (someone), ...*

Asking for someone's opinion

- 1 Negative questions (we expect someone to agree)

Don't you think ...? *Shouldn't ...?*

- 2 Other ways:

What do you think (about) ...? *How do you feel about ...?*

What are your views on ...?

- 5 Complete the conversations with appropriate phrases from the Language for speaking box. Compare your ideas with a partner.
- A _____ the fact that guilt-free brands are often more expensive?

B _____ it's fine to pay a bit more to know that the environment isn't being harmed.
 - A Most of us can't afford electric cars. _____ people who buy electric cars are showing off how rich they are, rather than actually caring about the planet?

B You may be right, but _____ everyone will drive electric cars in the future.
 - A _____ we should just buy less stuff. What do you think about that?

B _____ that's a good idea. We all have far more than we really need.
 - A _____ the government make electric cars less expensive so everyone can afford one?

B Yes, definitely.
- 6 Ask your partner for their opinions on the questions in exercise 5.

Reading & Writing social media

- 7 Read the post from social media page *#haveyoursay*. Which of the following statements do you agree with? Discuss with a partner.
- Not everyone can afford to buy more expensive clothes.
 - Fashion changes quickly, so it's important to be able to buy cheap clothes you can throw away when they go out of fashion.
 - If you don't buy clothes made in poorer countries, you are putting people out of work.
 - It should be easier to find out which companies look after their workers properly.
 - People buy far too many things these days.
- 8 Now read the comments underneath the post and match them to the statements in exercise 7.
- 9 Read the information in the Language for writing box, then rewrite the comments as full sentences.

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING

informal language for social media

When we write for social media, we often:

- miss words out, especially grammar words such as *a/the/I/my/is/am/it*, e.g. *Sitting on bed (I'm sitting on my bed)*
- use abbreviations or short forms, e.g. *people = ppl, with = w/, especially = esp, should = shld*
- use letters or numbers for words which sound the same, e.g. *you = u, are = r, see = c, for = 4*

Search for people, places and things

Are cheap clothes ethical? *#haveyoursay*

Like · Comment · Share

Cheap clothes can be made using children working in poor conditions. So should we stop buying cheap clothes, or simply be more careful about finding out how and where they were made?

Comments

IM Ian Martin:
Every1 shld just buy less.

CO Cristina Oliveira:
2 keep up w/ fashion u need 2 buy cheap clothes. Can't afford expensive ones.

PJ Pippa Jones:
Ppl need jobs, esp in poorer places. If u don't buy, they don't work.

JB James Brook:
Some ppl can't afford 2 pay higher prices 4 clothes.

YW Yumi Watanabe:
Difficult 2 know which companies r OK 2 buy from.

- 10a **TASK** Write your own comment on the post, using informal language.

- b Look at the comments written by two other students in your class and reply to each one, using informal language.