

12.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Listening: recognize vague language ■ Understand and use compound adjectives

Listening recognizing vague language

- Work with a partner and answer the questions.
 - Which of the following words and phrases have a similar meaning to 'fashionable'?
 - cool • trendy • out
 - dated • in • the 'in' thing
 - hip
 - How important is it to you to be fashionable?
 - Describe the appearance of the man in the photo. What do you think of his 'look'?



- 12.7))) Listen to the first part of a radio programme about modern-day hipsters. Correct two facts in the summary below.

There are hipsters in many countries. They are usually in their teens or twenties. They dislike popular culture, preferring alternative music and fashion. They are mostly students, studying for a career in creative fields such as media or publishing.

- 12.8))) Listen and complete these extracts from the listening in exercise 2.
 - They're _____ anti anything that's popular.
 - That includes _____, music, clothes and _____.
 - Many _____ them work in _____ fields like media or publishing, that _____ thing.
- Underline the examples of vague language in exercise 3a.

- 12.9))) Read and listen to the information in the Unlock the code box about recognizing vague language in fast speech.

UNLOCK THE CODE recognizing vague language

It is very common in spoken English to use vague expressions. We use them:

- when we can't think of a precise word to describe something.
kind of sort of
For example: *It's kind of reddish.*
- to say there are more examples in a list or category.
and so on and that kind/sort/type of thing
or whatever and things/stuff/places like that
For example: *The shop sells vintage clothes, records and that kind of thing.*

Because the phrases are so common, we say them very quickly and often don't pronounce parts of the words. For example:

kind of sounds like /kaɪnə/
sort of sounds like /sɔ:də/ or /sɔ:(r)tə/
like that sounds like /laɪðæt/
... *and so on* sounds like /nsəʊwɒn/

- 12.10))) Listen to five sentences and write the number of words you hear. Contractions count as two words (e.g. *it's = it is*).
1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
- 12.11))) Listen and complete the sentences.
 - Hipsters reject mainstream culture: music, clothes, _____.
 - Some hipsters are vegan so they don't eat eggs _____.
 - It's a shop that sells old books _____.
 - He's into 1930s music, like jazz, blues _____.
 - She likes _____ you'd buy from a vintage clothes shop.
 - The area is full of hipster barber shops, cafés _____.
- 12.12))) Listen to the rest of the radio programme about modern-day hipsters and tick the topics that are mentioned.

• hipster clothing	• attitudes to the environment
• objects owned by hipsters	• hipster transport
• hipster neighbourhoods	• hipster drinks
• taste in music	• hipster hobbies
- 12.12))) Listen again and check.

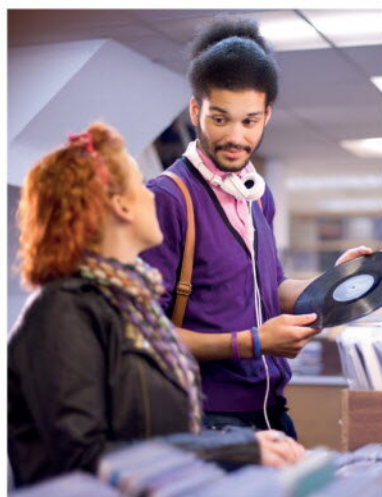
- 7 **12.12**))) Listen again and answer the questions.
- Where do hipsters often buy their clothes?
 - Why do hipsters dislike being called hipsters?
 - Why are hipsters unpopular?
 - What do we learn about the hipster diet?
 - What is special about the bikes that hipsters ride?
 - What is the most stereotypical hipster hobby?
- 8 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.
- Do you have hipsters in your country? Are they similar to the ones described in the radio programme?
 - Which other youth cultures or subcultures exist in your country? What are they like?

Vocabulary compound adjectives

- 9a The compound adjectives below all appeared in the radio programme. Use as many of them as you can to describe the photos.

a fixed-wheel bicycle

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 clean-shaven | 8 old-fashioned |
| 2 eco-friendly | 9 second-hand |
| 3 fixed-wheel | 10 little-known |
| 4 floral-patterned | 11 run-down |
| 5 home-made | 12 thick-rimmed |
| 6 low-tech | 13 tight-fitting |
| 7 turned-up | |



- b With a partner, match some of the compound adjectives in exercise 9a to their antonyms below.
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a plain <u>4</u> | f brand new ___ |
| b thin-rimmed ___ | g high-tech ___ |
| c famous ___ | h bearded ___ |
| d baggy ___ | i smart ___ |
| e shop-bought/industrially produced ___ | j harmful to the environment ___ |
- 10 Read the information in the Vocabulary focus box about compound adjectives.

VOCABULARY FOCUS compound adjectives

- Compound adjectives are made of two words. They are usually written with a hyphen, but occasionally they are written as a single word. Here are some of the common forms they take.
 - ending in a past participle: *high-heeled, handmade*
 - ending in a present participle: *good-looking, tight-fitting*
 - ending in a noun: *last-minute, full-time*
 - ending in an adjective: *sugar-free, brand new*
 - ending in a preposition: *worn-out, rolled-up*
- NB Some compound adjectives have a hyphen before a noun, but not after a verb (e.g. *a well-known band* BUT *the band is well known*).

- 11a Use suitable compound adjectives from exercise 9a to complete the questionnaire.

HOW HIPSTER ARE YOU?

- Do you ever buy _____ or vintage clothes?
- Are you into _____ equipment, like record players and retro cameras?
- Do you listen to obscure, _____ bands?
- Does your wardrobe contain _____ shirts/dresses and _____ jeans?
- Do you wear _____ glasses?
- Do you ride a _____ bicycle?
- Do you prefer beards or _____ moustaches to the _____ look?
- Do you prefer _____ food and home-grown vegetables to shop-bought ones?
- Do you enjoy _____ hobbies like knitting, growing vegetables and retro photography?
- Would you deliberately choose to live in a _____ area to be near cool restaurants and cafés?
- Do you buy _____ cosmetic products, like shampoo?

- b Ask and answer the questions with a partner. If the answer is yes, ask follow-up questions to find out more.