

12.4 Speaking and writing

GOALS ■ Agree and disagree ■ Write an advantages and disadvantages essay

Listening & Speaking agreeing and disagreeing

1a Work with a partner. Add at least three more things to this list of things that can go in and out of fashion.

clothes restaurants cars diets
mobile phones video games



b Discuss the questions with a partner.

- 1 Would you buy a new phone because yours felt old-fashioned? Why/Why not?
- 2 Do you notice if people's clothes are (un)fashionable? Does it affect your opinion of them?

2 12.6))) Listen to three conversations about how fashionable things are. What three things in exercise 1a are the speakers talking about? Tick the words in exercise 1a.

3 12.6))) Listen to the conversations again and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

Both speakers think that ...

- 1 Andrew's new phone will be good for taking photos on holiday.
- 2 old-fashioned things sometimes look better than newer things.
- 3 the prices at the new restaurant are too high.
- 4 the restaurant is in a good position.

4a Use the phrases from the listening to complete the table.

You might be right. I was just going to say that! Don't you think ...? I'm not sure about that. I couldn't agree more. That's just what I thought. Absolutely! I totally disagree.

| Agreeing | Disagreeing | Asking if someone agrees |
|----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| | | |

- b Look at the phrases in the first two columns of the table in exercise 4a. Write S if the phrase shows strong agreement or disagreement, and W if it shows weak agreement or disagreement.
- c Check your answers in the Language for speaking box.

LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING agreeing and disagreeing

Asking if someone agrees

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Don't you agree?</i> | <i>Would you agree?</i> |
| <i>Don't you think ...?</i> | <i>Wouldn't you say that ...?</i> |

Agreeing

Agree strongly
I was just going to say that!
That's just what I thought.
Absolutely!
I couldn't agree more.
My thoughts exactly.
That's a good point.
Agree weakly
I suppose so.
You might be right, but ...

Disagreeing

Disagree strongly
I totally disagree.
Rubbish!
Disagree weakly
I'm not sure about that.
Yes but I can't help thinking ...
I agree up to a point ...

d 12.7))) Listen and repeat the phrases for agreeing and disagreeing in the Language for speaking box.

5 Work with a partner and choose two topics. Use the prompts to have a conversation.

- There is no difference between expensive branded clothes and cheaper versions.
- We don't need books any longer.
- We have too many possessions nowadays.
- Everyone should speak at least two languages.
- People who follow fashion have no originality or ideas of their own.

A Give an opinion on topic 1. Ask if B agrees.

B Agree strongly. Add another reason.

A Agree or disagree not very strongly.

B Give an opinion on topic 2. Ask if A agrees.

A Agree strongly. Add another reason.

B Agree or disagree not very strongly.

6a Work with a partner. Read the statement and write down three reasons to agree with it and three reasons to disagree.

'We spend too much time, money and effort staying in fashion.'

- b Join another pair. Decide which pair will agree with the statement and which pair will disagree and discuss.
- c Do most people agree or disagree with the statement?

Writing advantages and disadvantages essay

- 7a Work with a partner. What do you think fast fashion is?
- b Check your ideas in the first paragraph of the essay.

1 Broadly speaking, 'fast fashion' companies make and sell the latest fashions very quickly. The clothes are heavily influenced by the international fashion shows in London, Milan, etc., and can even appear on the high street within two weeks of the show. They introduce new clothes into the shops every two or three months, not twice a year, like traditional fashion houses. The main objectives of 'fast fashion' are to bring high-fashion clothes into the shops quickly and cheaply. However, this has both advantages and disadvantages.

2 One advantage ¹_____ customers can buy very up-to-date, fashionable clothes. ²_____ major ³_____ is that there is a greater variety of clothes in the shops. This means that a smaller number of each item of clothing is made, so you probably won't find other people wearing the same clothes as you.

3 ⁴_____ hand, there are also several ⁵_____ with 'fast fashion'. ⁶_____ disadvantage can be that the designs are not original; they are copied from the fashion shows of famous designers, which people should be discouraged from doing. Another ⁷_____ the clothes are usually made very cheaply, which can mean that the quality is poor and that the people who make the clothes are not well paid. This can give the companies a negative image.

4 Overall, we have seen that fast fashion can be a good or a bad thing. We need to realize that we are responsible for the choices we make when we are shopping, and the difference those choices make to other people in the world.

- 8a Work with a partner and write down two good things and two bad things about fast fashion.
- b Read the rest of the essay and underline any ideas you thought of.
- c Which paragraph talks about advantages? Which talks about disadvantages?
- 9a Read the information in the Language for writing box.

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING
advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

*There are several benefits.
One advantage is that ...
Another major positive is that ...*

Disadvantages

*One disadvantage can be that ...
Another drawback (of fast fashion) is that ...
On the other hand ...
... there are also problems with ...*

- b Complete the essay in exercise 7b with one to three words in each gap.
- 10 Find and underline two generalizations in the introduction and conclusion.
- 11a Look at the essay title.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of buying the latest technology?

Work in small groups and complete the table with your ideas.

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|------------|---------------|
| • | • |
| • | • |
| • | • |

- b Work with a partner. Complete the essay plan with two ideas for each paragraph.
 - Introduction (general points about buying technology)
 - Advantages
 - Disadvantages
 - Conclusion (general points/need to consider both sides)

- 12a **TASK** Write an essay on the topic below.

The advantages and disadvantages of buying the latest technology.

Write 200–250 words.

- b Swap your essay with another student. Read your partner's work and tell them two things you like about the essay and one thing they could improve (e.g. the ideas, the organization, spelling, use of tenses).

