



Adult

Am I Complicit?

Part 1

A. Match the types of clothes (1-6) to the photos (a-f).

- ___ 1. clothes made of natural materials
- ___ 2. clothes made of synthetic materials
- ___ 3. clothes made by fair-trade cooperatives
- ___ 4. clothes made by big global companies
- ___ 5. clothes made by local or national companies
- ___ 6. clothes that are recycled or second-hand



B. Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

1. How often do you buy the types of clothes in Activity A?
2. Could buying any of these types of clothes have any negative effects? If so, what are they?
3. Do you ever think about the possible negative effects of buying certain types of clothes? Explain.



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Part 2

A. Read the article. Then complete the mind map.

Why Shop Local?

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Irma Sánchez owns a clothing store in Guatemala City. There are large shopping malls in the city with many clothing stores, but Irma's store is different. She only sells clothes, handbags, and shoes that are made in Guatemala. Irma explained that many Guatemalan designers are using traditional Guatemalan fabrics to create modern, trendy clothes. The store also sells beautiful leather shoes and leather and fabric handbags. They are all made by Guatemalan designers and producers.

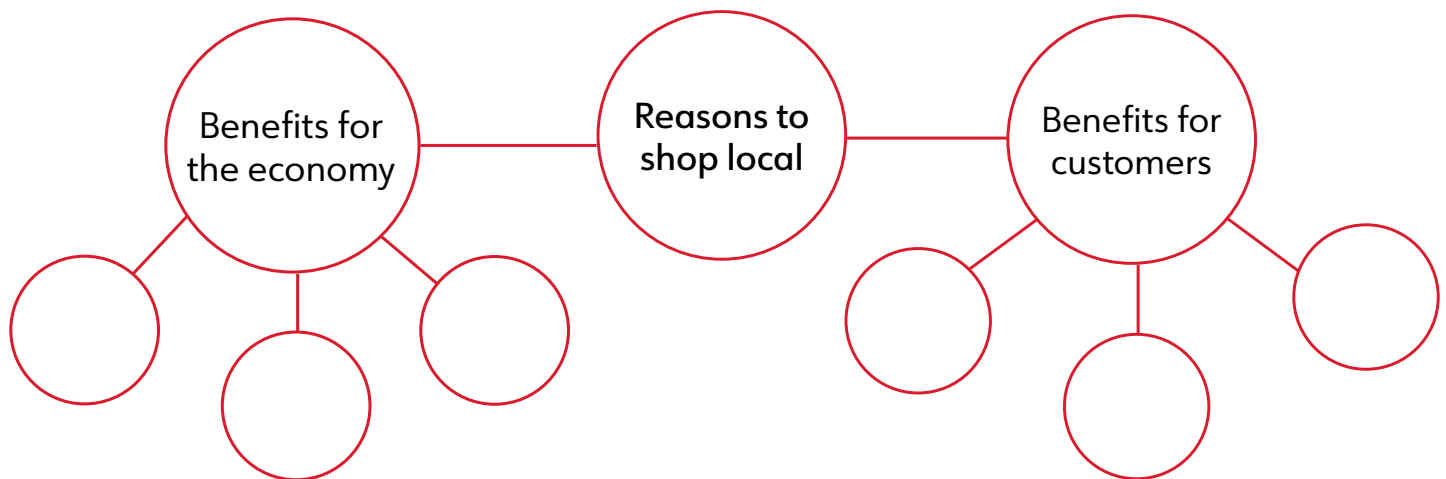
We asked Irma why she sells only Guatemalan products. She explained that it helps promote Guatemalan designers and helps Guatemala's economy. When people shop at stores like Irma's, they are keeping money in the community. Irma pays Guatemalans for the rent for her downtown store, the materials in her products, and the production of the items. Irma says global big box stores take a



lot of money out of the country, but small local businesses create jobs. They hire employees, and they buy goods and services from other local businesses. If there are many small businesses instead of one or two big global companies, there is more competition. This means that there is a bigger variety of products for customers, and the competition creates lower prices. Small businesses also usually have better customer service. The employees know the customers and want to give them good service. Finally, if there are many opportunities to work at or own a small business, young people will stay in the community. Then the local economy will grow.


store shopping mall downtown

shop shopping centre the city centre



B. Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

1. Do you know of any fashion designers or clothing companies in your country? Give examples.
2. Where can you buy clothes made in your country? Do you ever buy clothes there?
3. What other locally-made items do you know of? Do you ever buy them? Explain.



Adult

Part 3

A. Listen to a talk about fast fashion. Then match the sentence parts to complete the summary.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <i>Fast fashion</i> is clothes | a) you can look better and save money. |
| 2. Some countries have few laws | b) the clothes are cheap and trendy. |
| 3. Many young people like <i>fast fashion</i> because | c) produced quickly and cheaply in developing countries. |
| 4. If you buy a few good clothes, | d) buying clothes at second-hand stores. |
| 5. Clothes made from recycled materials | e) to protect workers or the environment. |
| 6. A popular trend among young people is | f) look good and help the environment. |

B. Read the quotes. Think about how each speaker's shopping habits affect the economy and the environment. Is each person complicit or not? Rank the quotes from 1 (most complicit) to 5 (least complicit).

- _____ 1. "I always buy clothes that will last a long time. I don't shop at big-box stores that sell cheap clothes. I don't have a lot of different clothes, but my clothes are good quality."
- _____ 2. "I almost never shop at big-box stores for my main clothes, but I usually buy things like socks at those stores because they're cheap."
- _____ 3. "I buy about half of my clothes at discount stores. I like to wear high-quality clothes, but I can't afford to spend a lot."
- _____ 4. "I don't buy a lot of clothes. But when I do, I usually buy inexpensive clothes to save money. I buy a lot of my clothes at big-box stores because they have everything."
- _____ 5. "I always buy clothes at big-box stores or inexpensive clothing stores. I like to wear a lot of different clothes, and I often throw away old clothes and buy new ones."

C. Work in pairs. Compare your answers. Then discuss the questions.

- 1. Which speaker's shopping habits in Activity B most closely match your shopping habits?
- 2. Do you want to make any changes in your shopping habits? Explain.



Extension

A. Identify one brand of clothes that you wear. Research the company and complete the chart.

Brand	
Types of clothes it produces	
Country where company's head office is	
Country/Countries where the clothes are made	
Types of materials used	
Working conditions (good / fair / bad)	
Environmental protections (good / fair / bad)	
Other information	

B. Prepare and present a short report on the company.