



IELTS READING LESSON 7-11-2018

By Johny

Lesson Objective

The student shall be able to use "power words" as part of their oral vocabulary, read and comprehend both social and business language and demonstrate effective oral communication skills.

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to understand definitions of English vocabulary

Section One Vocabulary

- Match the correct word in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence

Column A	Column B
VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
1. UBIQUITOUS (adj)	A. To extract (information) from various sources.
2. PASSERBY (noun)	B. A fierce or angry stare.
3. SELF-EFFACEMENT (noun)	C. A shop selling second-hand clothes and household goods, typically to raise funds for a Church or charity.
4. STARK (adj)	D. Present, appearing, or found everywhere. Ever-present, everywhere, all over the place.
5. GLEAN (verb)	E. Show or prove to be right, reasonable, or justified.
6. FRUMPY (adj)	F. The act or fact of keeping oneself in the background, as in humility.
7. GLARE (noun)	G. Severe or bare in appearance or outline. Sharp, sharply defined, well-focused, crisp, distinct, obvious, evident, clear.
8. THRIFT STORE (noun)	H. A female with lack of concern for appearance. Often characterized by sweatpants, frizzy hair, gramma panties and a dirty complexion.
9. VINDICATE (verb)	I. A person who happens to be going past something, especially on foot.

Section Two**Reading Comprehension and Pronunciation skills.**

Evaluation Criteria: Ability to effectively read and comprehend written English in a social or business environment.

ARTICLE A**What Does Your Clothes Say About You?**

Source

1. Clothes, shoes, accessories, and even body modifications, like piercings, tattoos, hair dye, and cosmetic surgery, are all a part of fashion in one way or another. Somehow we decide why we want those jeans, that pair of shoes, or our first tattoo. Considering we are highly complex individuals who absorb many different characteristics throughout our lives, identity is a complicated concept. From how fashion shapes identity in terms of age, gender, class, and more, we hope that this will help shed some light on who you are, why we make certain style related choices, and how to better understand others.

**Age**

Women have been taught, oftentimes from a very young age, that there is a certain social standard for how we should dress at different stages in our lives. And if you've ever been told that you should dress your age – like when your twelve-year-old self tried to sneak out in a mini skirt, only to be told by your mother that you won't be leaving looking like that, then you probably understand this concept a little better than most.



- 2.** Chances are, many women have been on the receiving end of the "dress your age" judgments, even those who are well into their 40s, 50s, 60s and so on. So why is this such a crucial part of our identities? Many of us use clothes to represent our ages, whether the actual one, or how we feel inside, and as we grow older, our fashion sense usually changes with it. Fortunately, though, these rigid roles are beginning to become more fluid in the adult world (sorry twelve-year-old me), allowing your great aunt to proudly display her pink hair and butterfly ink.

Further supported by a paper published by the University of Manchester, which states, "In relation to clothing and dress, it means the end of the old culture of age ordering, of self-effacement, and drab and frumpy dress: there is no reason why older people should not wear the same clothes, shop at the same fashion conscious shops as younger people. For women in particular it offers liberation from what is a very negative set of messages around sexuality, appearance and self-assertion, policed by a heavily moralistic language." In other words, rock on Grandma. Rock on.

3. Gender

When we're born, clothing typically reflects our gender – boys are in blue and girls in pink. But as we grow older and begin to develop likes and dislikes, what we are left with can drastically change. With gender fluidity and the greater social acceptance of transgender individuals, our mainstream ideas of man and woman based on clothing alone is no longer the best identifier. What ends up happening is that we utilize fashion as the self-expression needed to convey our genders, whether actual or desired, to the world.

An insightful article from the Berg Fashion Library on the study of fashion, dress, and gender, notes, "In the humanities, the most influential gender theorist has been Judith Butler, whose canonical book *Gender Trouble* contributed the concept of gender performativity. This theory argues that seemingly stable gender expressions are actually the result of constant negotiations between an individual's sense of self and the feedback acquired through social interactions, in a context of signs and symbols that are constantly subject to change."

4. Class and Culture

How much money we make helps determine which brands we can afford, where we will acquire clothing, and how we will dress. Fashion shapes identity thereby further supporting the wearer's lifestyle. Luxury names, branded handbags and clothing, and the ability to afford more cosmetic procedures, which are often out of reach for most, may become an important part of a wealthy person's life. Whereas, someone on the opposite end of the spectrum may find themselves shopping at thrift stores, or possibly struggling to maintain a clean, tatter-free wardrobe. Our clothing is a stark reminder of our identities, whether we like it or not.

5. Self-Esteem

If you've ever had a favorite dress that fits perfectly in all the right places, or a power suit that always seems to give you that extra boost of confidence before a meeting, then you probably understand how clothing can have a direct effect on your self-esteem and how class and culture trickle down into this area. Although you don't have to be rich to look nice and to buy new clothes, when you can't afford any at all, then self-esteem and self-worth can, understandably, take a hit. The correlation between clothing and how we feel about ourselves is so strong that in "The Psychology of Dress" published by the Berg Fashion Library, a team of social psychologists found "that when women put on a swimsuit as part of a research project, they performed more poorly on a subsequent math test than other women who put on a sweater."

6. Other's Opinions

The way we dress is like communicating without words, and whether we like it or not, other people judge us by our appearances. While we shouldn't allow our self-esteem to ride on the opinions of others, what we glean from people throughout our lives, be it good or bad, help to shape our identities. Like the story about the homeless man who received little to no assistance, but once he was wearing a suit strangers were more apt to help him, to the excuse about "the way she was dressed" as a way to explain away



a motive for sexual assault, there are many predeterminations and misconceptions about outward appearances – it's up to us to change them.

Although this is just barely scratching the surface, there's no doubting the effect that fashion has on our identities. Based on these notions, is there one that you most closely relate to? What do your clothes say about you?

ARTICLE B

What Does Your Clothes Say About You?

Source

1. I recently mentioned on my Instagram this exact question after finding myself not wearing certain items of my wardrobe. My contemplation started like this: "Do you ever feel like you can't wear something because it's not common practice in your social environment?"

I was beginning to feel that way with this faux leather skirt. I live in a small Welsh countryside town where the majority wears jeans each day and that is very much the norm and generally the done thing.



So I started to put off wearing it in fear of standing out. Why? Who knows. I labelled it as too fancy for day wear. But guess what, I wore it today and nobody cared, nobody stared and I loved wearing it once again. Strange how small town mentality can get in to your head sometimes and you end up putting your own barriers needlessly in the way. Wear the skirt/dress/leather trousers. Do what makes you happy!

2. So here's the long of it:

I live in amongst a cluster of little towns in the Welsh valleys. It's a small town surrounded by rolling hills and farms, which is fairly ubiquitous here in the UK. It's quite common to be stuck behind a tractor and see multiple people out and about in jodhpurs and muddy boots, dog walkers dressed up in their warmest wears and funny hats, this is just general town-country life.

But here's the thing. There is very much a 'social norm' when it comes to dressing around these parts. When you're out and about the general consensus is usually jeans (skinny, boot cut, straight), body warmers or coats and sensible shoes.

Because of this, I find myself dressing down more to fit in to this 'social norm' not wanting to step outside of the non-trend and wear what I actually want to wear. I seem to have created an invisible line of constriction that I'm unprepared to cross. And yet it's nobody's doing but me.

In my mind I have curated lists of commonly acceptable outfits that go a little something like:



Skinny jeans and sweater
= OK



Faux Leather for day wear
= NO CHANCE



Sensible walking boots=
Yes to the norm.



OTK boots =
What are you thinking?



...You get the idea

3. I do this to fit in and blend in; in fear of standing out, but really what does it matter? I don't know most of the people I see each day. We are merely passersby in each other's life, without a second thought to one another afterwards. Judgement, if passed, is fleeting and really, why should I care? So why do I restrict myself? It comes down to the need of approval and security.

But when I really got to thinking about it, the only person it affects is myself, right? So why rely on complete strangers' approval to vindicate myself?

4. Dressing each day is my creative outlet, I can't paint or draw, dressing what I want is part of who I am and my way of expressing myself creatively. My outfit can be a reflection of my personality or what my current mood is. My style represents me and nobody else, it's as individual as my fingerprint, yes it may be influenced or I may have been inspired, but ultimately it is my manifestation. So wear the skirt, rock the OTK boots and wear that red fluffy coat if that is what you want. If it makes you happy... wear it!

Turns I'm not alone in thinking this. Lots of us feel this way, especially those who don't live in cities where the general consensus is more open to a variety of styles.

ARTICLE C

Why You Shouldn't Judge People By The Way They Dress

Source

1. The older I get, the more I realize that society is very judgmental. It sucks. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that everyone is judgmental, but a handful of people are. That's the harsh truth. Often times, it comes down to the way one looks or dresses. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I'm here to tell you one thing and one thing only: It shouldn't matter. Out of all the things in life you could be worried about, it should not be about what somebody wears.



Being in college, I've noticed that people are often criticized on what they wear to class. "Why are they so dressed up for class? It's only class." Or it could be the opposite, "Why are they not dressed up?" If you're dressed nice, people will judge; if you're not dressed nice, people will judge. You can never win. But it shouldn't have to be that way.

To start off, just because somebody dresses a certain way does not mean that's how they are. For example, if someone is wearing designer clothing head to toe, that doesn't necessarily mean they have money, or came from a rich background. If a person is wearing old and worn out clothing, that does not make them poor. They could totally have money; they just don't spend it on clothes. You simply don't know. Stereotyping is not good fashion, don't wear it.

2. Secondly, people have different styles and tastes. Everyone has the right to express themselves and some people do so by dressing up. Some do not. Sure, somebody may have a style completely different from yours, but that doesn't make them any less of a person than you are. People like to dress up for themselves, not for everyone else. Next time you see a person wearing something you're not a fan of, just look away. You may not like it, but they probably do.

Lastly, we tend to pick people apart. Rather than focusing on what others are wearing, we need to focus on their great qualities. There is so much more to a person than what they wear. You may not like the way a person dresses but could love their personality. As a society in general, we need to look more for the good in people, not the bad. Easier said than done, totally. But it doesn't hurt to try!



My point here is, we live in a world where judging has become that nasty cough people can't seem to get rid of. In the grand scheme of things, we shouldn't judge, period. Life is too short for it. Let's lift people up instead of bringing them down. Let's smile instead of glare. And let's always remember what they taught us when we were little: Don't judge a book by its cover.