

Fair Trade

“Every time you spend money, you are casting a vote for the kind of world you want.”

—Anna Lappe, author



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. What does fair trade mean?
2. What fair trade products have you seen in stores?
3. Do you check where a product is made before you buy it?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. consumer | a) the lowest amount of money you can pay a worker |
| ___ 2. conscience | b) trustworthy, always doing the right thing |
| ___ 3. responsible | c) an object that is handmade |
| ___ 4. mass-produced | d) someone who buys products |
| ___ 5. wages | e) hourly job earnings |
| ___ 6. artifact | f) a person who expresses negativity |
| ___ 7. critic | g) a sense of what is right and wrong |
| ___ 8. corrupt | h) acting in a dishonest manner for personal gain |
| ___ 9. minimum wage | i) to make sure that rules are followed |
| ___ 10. enforce | j) made in very large quantities |

Reading

FAIR TRADE

Consumers with a conscience

1. Are you a **consumer** with a **conscience**? Your conscience tells you when something is right or wrong. It sometimes reminds you not to buy something expensive that you don't need. Your conscience may also tell you to pay a little more for something that is made in a **responsible** way. Fair trade is a system that tries to give producers in developing countries the money they deserve. Popular fair trade items include coffee, tea, and chocolate. Do you look at the labels when you buy these items?
2. Products that are made far away are sometimes the least expensive. How can that be? It's simple. **Mass-produced** goods are often made by people who receive extremely low **wages**. The working environment in developing countries may be unsafe and unfair. Production may even involve child labor. This is what the fair trade movement tries to fix.
3. In some countries, women are not able to earn money. The fair trade system helps women earn money by selling handmade goods such as clothing, bags, and other **artifacts**. As a consumer, you can support a single talented seamstress and her children instead of a box store.
4. Paying a little more for fair trade goods is a way for consumers to reduce poverty around the world. However, not everyone can afford to do this. Some people *live paycheck to paycheck*. They can only afford the lowest prices at the local chain store.
5. How reliable is fair trade labeling? Can you be sure that a farmer's family will benefit if you pay extra for your coffee? **Critics** of fair trade doubt this. They believe it's the companies that benefit from the higher prices. Some fair trade co-ops are **corrupt**. Corruption includes false labeling or not paying farmers the required **minimum wage**. It is difficult for the fair trade labeling organization to **enforce** fair trade practices in farms around the world. Should consumers do their own research?

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What is a “conscience”?
2. Why are products that are made far away sometimes the least expensive?
3. What does the reading infer about women in developing countries?
4. What does it mean to live paycheck to paycheck?
5. What do critics of fair trade doubt?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. The coffee company has no _____ . Its workers are child slaves.
2. The toys at the dollar store are _____ at factories in Asia.
3. That organization doesn’t have the manpower to _____ their rules.
4. In the fair trade co-op, the business owners have to pay the workers at least _____ .

B. Odd One Out

Which word does not belong?

Circle the word that does not fit in with the others.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a) responsible
b) trustworthy
c) enforce
d) reliable | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. a) handmade
b) box store
c) craft
d) artifact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. a) dishonest
b) corrupt
c) illegal
d) minimum wage |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. a) earnings
b) income
c) wages
d) fair trade | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. a) critic
b) opponent
c) anti-
d) consumer | |

Idioms with “Fair”

Idiom	Definition	Example
fair and square	no rules were broken	We won that game fair and square!
a fair shake	fair treatment	The manager gave the teen a fair shake at the job, but the teen didn't try hard enough.
fair's fair	It is fair because of something that happened in the recent past.	A: Hey! He went over the line. B: Fair's fair. Your team broke the rules a minute ago.
a fair-weather friend	a person who is only a friend in good times	Jenna is a fair-weather friend. She never calls when I'm unemployed.
a/one's fair share	the same amount as everyone else	You did your fair share of the cleanup. I'll do the rest.

Discussion

1. Would you rather buy products from local farms and artisans than from box stores?
2. What fair trade products have you seen on the market in addition to coffee, tea, and chocolate?
3. Have you heard of “fair trade universities” or “fair trade towns”? What do you think these are?

Critical Thinking

IN PAIRS

What can people in developed countries do to help reduce poverty around the world?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

FAIR TRADE

Consumers with a conscience

1. Are you a consumer with a _____? Your conscience tells you when something is right or wrong. It sometimes reminds you not to buy something expensive that you don't need. Your conscience may also tell you to pay a little more for something that is made in a _____ way. Fair trade is a system that tries to give producers in developing countries the money they deserve. Popular fair trade items include coffee, tea, and chocolate. Do you look at the labels when you buy these items?
2. Products that are made far away are sometimes the least expensive. How can that be? It's simple. Mass-produced goods are often made by people who receive extremely low wages. The working _____ in developing countries may be unsafe and unfair. Production may even involve child _____. This is what the fair trade movement tries to fix.
3. In some countries, women are not able to earn money. The fair trade system helps women earn money by selling _____ goods such as clothing, bags, and other _____. As a consumer, you can support a single talented seamstress and her children instead of a box store.
4. Paying a little more for fair trade goods is a way for consumers to reduce _____ around the world. However, not everyone can afford to do this. Some people *live paycheck to paycheck*. They can only afford the lowest prices at the local _____.
5. How reliable is fair trade labeling? Can you be sure that a farmer's family will benefit if you pay extra for your coffee? Critics of fair trade _____ this. They believe it's the companies that benefit from the higher prices. Some fair trade co-ops are corrupt. Corruption includes false labeling or not paying farmers the required minimum wage. It is difficult for the fair trade labeling organization to enforce fair trade _____ in farms around the world. Should consumers do their own research?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about and discuss the concept of fair trade. The lesson includes a vocabulary review and comprehension and discussion questions. Idioms with the word “fair” are introduced.

LEVEL: Int – Adv

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, fair trade, trade, fairness, slavery, farming, farmer, developing countries, third world, business, consumerism

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class. Discuss the quote.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. d | 3. b | 5. e | 7. f | 9. a |
| 2. g | 4. j | 6. c | 8. h | 10. i |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the audio as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

1. Your conscience is your sense of what’s right or wrong.
2. Products that are made far away are sometimes the least expensive because they are mass-produced by people who earn low wages.
3. The reading infers that many women do not have husbands or other support networks to help support their families.
4. To live paycheck to paycheck means to have no savings. You spend all of what you earn every month.
5. Critics of fair trade doubt that farmers receive extra money when you buy fair trade labeled products. They think the companies receive the benefits.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. conscience | 3. enforce |
| 2. mass-produced | 4. minimum wage |

B. ODD ONE OUT

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. d | 3. b | 4. d | 5. d |
|------|------|------|------|------|

Answer Key cont.

Idioms with “Fair”

Play some review games to help students remember these idioms, such as hangman or hot seat. You could also have students create skits or dialogues based on these new expressions.

Discussion

Answers will vary. For writing practice, advanced students can choose a question and write an essay response.

Critical Thinking

Answers will vary. For writing practice, advanced students can choose a question and write an essay response. Invite pairs to present their ideas.

Listening

1. conscience , responsible
2. environment, labor
3. handmade, artifacts
4. poverty, chain store
5. doubt, practices

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Labor*, *Labeling*, *Labeled*, and *Paycheck*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Labour*, *Labelling*, *Labelled*, and *Paycheque*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.