

Second-Hand Vs. New

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you buy some items second-hand?
2. Have you ever bought a used car?
3. Where can you shop for second-hand items?
4. What reasons are there for buying used clothes?



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. second-hand | a) to remain useful for a long time |
| ___ 2. cheaper | b) a promise of quality and efficiency |
| ___ 3. value | c) an item that is so old its value has increased |
| ___ 4. fraction | d) in a careful manner |
| ___ 5. guarantee | e) less expensive |
| ___ 6. last (<i>verb</i>) | f) a small part of |
| ___ 7. big-ticket | g) how much something is worth |
| ___ 8. gently | h) previously used |
| ___ 9. consignment store | i) very costly |
| ___ 10. thrift shop | j) a store where used items are sold cheaply |
| ___ 11. garage sale | k) a store where profits are shared between the business and the seller |
| ___ 12. antique (<i>noun</i>) | l) an outdoor sale of household items at someone's home |

Reading

SECOND-HAND VS. NEW

Out with the old, in with the new

1. Do you need a new car? What about a spring jacket?
There is always something to add to your shopping list!
2. Some people buy everything brand-new. They upgrade to a new home, vehicle, or wardrobe at the earliest sign of wear and tear. Others prefer to purchase **second-hand** whenever possible.
3. Second-hand items are much **cheaper**. The moment you drive a new car off the lot, it loses some of its **value**. Used cars cost a **fraction** of the price, but there is no **guarantee** they will **last**. Buying used clothing, furniture, and toys from a **thrift shop** is less risky than buying **big-ticket** items second-hand.
4. **Gently** used items can be passed down as children outgrow them. Why buy a new bike if your neighbor will sell you a hand-me-down that is 80% cheaper? You can also sell your used products at **consignment stores**. These stores share the profits with you or give you in-store credit when your items sell.
5. One person's trash is another person's treasure. Shopping for books and **antiques** at thrift shops or **garage sales** is better for the environment and could even make you rich! On the other hand, bringing these items into your home could also give you bedbugs. Is there anything you wouldn't buy second-hand?

"The best things in life are old, loved, and rescued."

—Author unknown

Comprehension

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

1. True or False? New cars lose value quickly.
2. What does the reading say about used furniture?
3. Name two examples of big-ticket items from the reading.
4. Who gets the profit at a consignment store?
5. Where is a good place to find antiques?

Vocabulary Review

A. Matching

Match the words on the left with the correct sentences on the right that illustrate their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. long-lasting | a) The desk was more than 100 years old |
| _____ 2. fraction | b) The child sold her old dolls to neighborhood friends. |
| _____ 3. consignment | c) The mother earned 50 dollars by selling used baby clothes at the local shop. |
| _____ 4. antique | d) His shoes have been in good shape for five years. |
| _____ 5. garage sale | e) Only a few people from the guest list showed up. |

B. Synonyms or Antonyms

Are the following words synonyms or antonyms?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 1. second-hand / used | _____ |
| 2. guarantee / promise | _____ |
| 3. gently / roughly | _____ |
| 4. big-ticket / cheap | _____ |
| 5. value / worth | _____ |
| 6. thrift shop / second-hand shop | _____ |

Discussion

1. What is the best second-hand item you have ever purchased? Why was it such a good “find”?
2. Which items would you only buy new? Why?
3. If you had a garage sale today, what would you sell?
4. Are thrift shops a solution to the garbage problem? How might they also contribute to it?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate's name:	Would you buy used shoes?	What is riskier, buying a used house or a used car?	Do you prefer to shop in new stores or used stores?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

SECOND-HAND VS. NEW

Out with the old, in with the new

1. Do you need a _____ car?
What about a spring jacket? There is always something to add to your _____ list!
2. Some people buy everything brand-new.
They _____ to a new home, vehicle, or wardrobe at the earliest sign of wear and tear. Others prefer to purchase items _____ whenever possible.
3. Second-hand items are much _____ .
The moment you drive a new car off the lot, it loses some of its value. Used cars cost a fraction of the price, but there is no guarantee they will last. Buying used clothing, furniture, and toys from a _____ is less risky than buying big-ticket items second-hand.
4. _____ used items can be passed down as children outgrow them. Why buy a new bike if your neighbor will sell you a _____ that is 80% cheaper? You can also sell your used products at consignment stores. These stores share the profits with you or give you in-store credit when your items sell.
5. One person's trash is another person's treasure.
Shopping for books and _____ at thrift shops or _____ is better for the environment and could even make you rich! On the other hand, bringing these items into your home could also give you bedbugs. Is there anything you wouldn't buy second-hand?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about and discuss the pros and cons of shopping for new items vs. second-hand items.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, second-hand, new, shopping, used, garage sales, consumerism

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. h | 3. g | 5. b | 7. i | 9. k | 11. l |
| 2. e | 4. f | 6. a | 8. d | 10. j | 12. c |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening 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

- True
- The reading says that buying used furniture isn't risky. You don't need a guarantee.
- The two big-ticket items mentioned are cars and houses.
- The seller and business owner split the profit at a consignment store.
- Good places to find antiques are garage sales and thrift shops.

Vocabulary Review

A. MATCHING

1. d 2. e 3. c 4. a 5. b

B. SYNONYMS OR ANTONYMS?

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. synonyms | 3. antonyms | 5. synonyms |
| 2. synonyms | 4. antonyms | 6. synonyms |

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Listening

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. new, shopping | 4. Gently, hand-me-down |
| 2. upgrade, second-hand | 5. antiques, garage sales |
| 3. cheaper, thrift shop | |

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Neighbor* and *Neighborhood*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Neighbour* and *Neighbourhood*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.