



## Text



## Britons expected to send 235m items of clothing

Audio 03



Study finds three-quarters of consumers throw away rather than recycle or donate unwanted garments

A predicted 235m items of Britons' unwanted clothing are expected to end up in landfill unnecessarily this spring, according to new research. Three-quarters of consumers admit to throw away their unwanted garments, usually because they do not realise that worn-out or dirty clothes can be recycled or accepted by charities.

Consumers are expected to get rid of 680m pieces of clothing as they spring-clean their wardrobes, a survey shows. However, this spring cleaning will be damaging for the environment, with 235m of the garments expected to end up in landfill. Men are more likely to send clothes to landfill, with 82% saying they would throw away items this spring compared with 69% of women.

Over the past 10 years, clothing has been the fastest growing waste category in the UK. In partnership with the charity Oxfam, Sainsbury's is urging consumers to donate unwanted clothes to its collection points alongside the traditional recycling bins in its store car

parks. The study also uncovered the reasons people do not donate or recycle clothing, with 49% saying they did not think they could because the clothes were worn out or dirty. A further 16% said they did not have time to visit a charity shop, or could not be bothered to sort items, while 6% did not realise clothing could be recycled.

"If clothes go out with the rubbish, they'll end up in landfill, so we've teamed up with Oxfam to help people become more charitable and environmentally aware this spring," said Paul Crewe, head of sustainability at Sainsbury's. "No matter if they're worn out, we're calling on shoppers to donate their unwanted clothes at recycling points in our stores across the UK."

Marks & Spencer also has a partnership with Oxfam, which began in January 2008. Donors handing old M&S clothing in to Oxfam stores receive a £5 M&S voucher, while its "shwopping" scheme encourages customers to hand over an old or unwanted garment whenever they buy a new one. Figures show that 27m garments have been "shwopped" since 2008.

■ Adapted from *the Guardian*, 2017.

## A step-by-step approach

## 1 Lexical work

- Find the lexical equivalents in the text.  
Décharge • usé • déchet • partenariat • point de collecte • recycler • trier • donateur.
- Find synonyms in the text for:  
Clothes • waste • throw away.

Notes



c. **Underline the right combination.**

"Shwop" is a combination of the verbs: shop and swap (échanger) • shop and slow (ralentir) • shop and swipe (essuyer).

**2 Read the whole text**

- Comment on the title.
- What do most British people do with their old clothes?
- What could they do instead?

**3 Check the facts**

Say if the following statements are true or false.

- British people have taken the habit of recycling their old clothes. ☐ T ☐ F
- Women recycle their clothes more than men. ☐ T ☐ F
- Most people don't recycle because they think it's impossible. ☐ T ☐ F
- Thrown away clothes damage the environment. ☐ T ☐ F
- Oxfam is a British supermarket. ☐ T ☐ F
- Famous supermarket chains are working with charities. ☐ T ☐ F
- When people recycle their clothes at Oxfam they get a voucher for Marks and Spencer. ☐ T ☐ F

**4 Train for the exam**

Find the key ideas of each paragraphs.

- \$1 ..... \$4 .....  
\$2 ..... \$5 .....  
\$3 .....

**5 Topic debrief**

Use the information above to write a 50 to 100 words account of the article.

**Language**

Le présent simple → page 190 / La forme passive → page 184  
Préfixes et suffixes → page 189 / Ever et ses composés → page 182

**Translate into French.**

- The study explores the general qualities of the average organic food consumer.
- Consumers are expected to get rid of 680m pieces of clothing.
- Worn-out or dirty clothes can be recycled or accepted by charities.
- The "shwopping" scheme encourages customers to hand over an old or unwanted garment whenever they buy a new one.

Notes

TRAINING

EXAMS

EXERCISES