



Objects That Tell a Story (A2)

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

1. Do you keep things from your childhood? What and why?
2. Have you ever bought something second-hand?
3. What object in your home has a memory attached to it?
4. Do you prefer to repair things or buy new ones?
5. What is the most special gift you have received?

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

Match up as many words and meanings as you can. (Definitions are shuffled.)

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| ___ 1. heirloom | a. a card you send with a short message and a picture |
| ___ 2. scratch | b. a valuable object passed down in a family |
| ___ 3. faded | c. a small piece of paper or cloth with information |
| ___ 4. owner | d. to fix something that is broken |
| ___ 5. donate | e. a person who has something |
| ___ 6. repair | f. less bright or colorful than before |
| ___ 7. auction | g. a public sale where people offer higher and higher prices |
| ___ 8. postcard | h. to give something to a charity or organization |
| ___ 9. note | i. to take something for a short time and return it later |
| ___ 10. pocket | j. a small part of clothes used for carrying things |
| ___ 11. label | k. a short piece of writing |
| ___ 12. borrow | l. a small mark caused by rubbing against something rough |

Reading

Second-hand Stories

How objects carry memory

1. Near the train station, there is a small second-hand shop filled with everyday treasures. On one shelf sits a camera with a scratch on its lens, the label reading, "Still works." Beside it is a box of postcards, their pictures of beaches and trains faded with time. These items may seem ordinary, but they carry the emotions and memories of their previous owners. A simple object can hold a whole chapter of someone's life, even if that chapter is unspoken. When such an item moves to a new home, the story continues with fresh details, connecting people in ways they may never fully realize.
2. Each object in the shop arrives with its own little history. A student brings in a warm coat after winter, hoping someone else can use it. A woman repairs a broken music box and donates it to raise money for a local shelter. A young boy tries on a second-hand jacket and finds a folded note in the pocket—just a name and a date, leaving him to wonder about the person who once wore it. These moments show how used goods can not only reduce waste, but also pass along kindness and connection.
3. Not every item is a family heirloom, but each holds a small piece of the past. Borrowing or buying something used is more than just saving money—it's quietly borrowing a slice of someone else's life. These objects remind us that even small things can carry big feelings, and that their journeys don't end when they leave their first owner. In the hands of a new person, they gain new memories, keeping the cycle of care and connection alive.





COMPREHENSION

- 1.What is special about the camera described in the shop?
2. What kinds of items are found in the box beside the camera?
3. What did the boy discover in the pocket of a jacket?
4. How can second-hand goods connect strangers?
5. Why does the author say that “each object holds a small piece of the past”?

VOCABULARY REVIEW

- 1.The old photo looks ____ after many years in the sun.
- 2.My grandmother gave me a ring; it's a family ____.
- 3.Please read the ____ to see how to wash this shirt.
- 4.Could I ____ your dictionary for the test?
- 5.They will ____ the painting to raise money for the museum.
- 6.The charity will ____ winter clothes to people in need.
- 7.The bicycle is broken, but I can ____ it quickly.
- 8.Check the inside ____-maybe there's a name.
- 9.I wrote a short ____ to say thank you.
- 10.The phone has a small ____ on the screen.

GRAMMAR REVIEW - PAST SIMPLE

- 1.We ____ (visit) the shop last Saturday and ____ (buy) two books.
- 2.She ____ (find) a postcard and ____ (send) it to her friend.
- 3.They ____ (repair) the clock and ____ (donate) it.
- 4.I ____ (read) the label but ____ (not/understand) it.
- 5.He ____ (leave) a note in the pocket for the next owner.
- 6.Who ____ (own) this camera before you?
- 7.My sister ____ (borrow) my sweater and ____ (forget) to return it.
- 8.The shop ____ (open) early and ____ (sell) many items.
- 9.We ____ (look) at the photos and ____ (feel) happy. 10.I ____ (pay) five euros and ____ (take) the book home.

DISCUSSION

- 1.Do second-hand objects have more value or less? Why?
- 2.Which item from your room would you donate, and to whom? 3.Is it okay to write on or change old objects?
- 4.What object would you keep forever?





CRITICAL THINKING

Choose an everyday object. Write a short history for it: who owned it before, what it 'saw,' and how it arrived in your hands.

