



APEX ENGLISH

Your voice. Global.

B1 · GENERAL ENGLISH

UNIT 9 · B1·9B

Made in Portugal, sold in Berlin

Theme · Money & shopping

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Made in Portugal, sold in Berlin

Theme: Money & shopping

B1 · General English



Learning objectives

- Talk about products, how they're made and where they come from.
- Use the passive voice (present and past) to describe processes and origins.
- Discuss shopping habits, fast fashion and better choices.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Class Book

Warm-up · Where is your outfit from?

Check *ONE* piece of clothing you're wearing. Read the label. Describe in 3 sentences: what it is, *WHERE* it was made, and how much you paid.

What's the item?

What country is on the label?

Was it expensive or cheap for what it is?

Lead-in · True or False — the story of your stuff

Vote *TRUE* or *FALSE* for each claim. Then reveal the answer.

1. The average T-shirt is worn only 7 times before it's thrown away.

2. Portugal is one of Europe's top textile producers.

3. The clothing industry is responsible for around 10% of global carbon emissions.

4. A €5 T-shirt is cheap because the factory is very efficient.

5. 'Made in Italy' guarantees the whole item was made in Italy.

followUp: Which of these facts changed your view? Would you pay more if you knew the full story of your clothes?

Reading · The T-shirt with three passports

That white T-shirt on your body has probably travelled more than you have. The cotton was grown in Uzbekistan or Turkey. It was spun into thread in India. The thread was woven into fabric in Bangladesh. The fabric was cut and sewn in Portugal or Vietnam. The T-shirt was shipped to a warehouse in the Netherlands. And it was sold to you in your city in less than a week.

All of this — cotton to shop — is done for a price that seems impossible. A €5 T-shirt has been touched by dozens of hands, and yet it costs less than the coffee you drank while ordering it online.

It works because most steps are done by people who earn very little. It also works because shops sell enormous quantities. Fast fashion isn't magic; it's a system. And systems only change when we, the buyers, decide that €5 is not actually a good deal.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. How many countries does a typical T-shirt travel through?
 - (A) Two
 - (B) Five or more
 - (C) Just one
2. Why is fast fashion so cheap?
 - (A) Magic
 - (B) Low wages + massive quantities
 - (C) Only the internet
3. According to the writer, systems change when...
 - (A) Politicians decide
 - (B) Buyers decide the price isn't fair
 - (C) The weather changes

Vocabulary in context

Match the phrase to its meaning.

cotton — the soft plant fibre used for most clothes

shipped — sent by boat or lorry

warehouse — a large building where products are stored

fast fashion — cheap clothes made quickly to follow trends

True / False / Not Given

Based only on the text.

1. A T-shirt only travels through one country.
 - (A) True
 - (B) False
 - (C) Not Given
2. Fast fashion depends partly on low wages.
 - (A) True
 - (B) False
 - (C) Not Given
3. The writer believes shoppers can change the system.
 - (A) True
 - (B) False
 - (C) Not Given

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4. €5 is a fair price for a T-shirt.

- (A) True
- (B) False
- (C) Not Given

React to the text

Answer in 2–3 sentences.

1. Where were most of YOUR clothes made? Have you ever checked?

2. Would you pay double for a T-shirt if you knew the workers were paid fairly?

Scan for meaning

Find the word or phrase from the text.

1. the soft plant fibre used for most clothes

2. a large building where products are stored

3. cheap clothes made quickly to follow trends

Vocabulary · Products & shopping

brand — a product name / company

label — the small tag with product info

quality — how well something is made

material — what something is made of (cotton, wool, etc.)

pre-owned — previously owned, not new

artisanal — made by hand, not by machine

try on — put clothes on to see if they fit

fit — be the right size

suit (someone) — look good on someone

go with — match another item

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worth (the price) — deserve the money you pay

return (something) — take back to the shop

practice

Complete each sentence with ONE word or phrase from the lists.

1. Can I ____ these jeans before I buy them?

2. That yellow ____ you really — very nice.

3. The shirt doesn't ____ my trousers — wrong colour.

4. It was expensive, but it was ____.

5. I'll ____ it — the size is completely wrong.

6. I love ____ shops — you find real gems for 5€.

Collocations · shopping verbs

Match each verb with its noun.

browse — the shop / the shelves / online

queue for — the fitting room / the till / a table

swap — clothes / a receipt / stories

haggle — the price / a deal

check — the label / the price / the size

Odd one out

Choose the word that does NOT belong.

1. cotton · wool · silk · sand

(A) cotton

(B) wool

(C) silk

(D) sand

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2. brand · label · logo · onion

(A) brand

(B) label

(C) logo

(D) onion

3. receipt · till · trolley · pillow

(A) receipt

(B) till

(C) trolley

(D) pillow

Word building · verb ↔ noun ↔ adjective

Complete each set.

utility:

1. produce (v) → the ____ (n) → the item is well ____ (adj)

2. sell (v) → a ____ (n) → the shoes are ____ ____ (idiom for very popular)

3. design (v) → a ____ (n) → this is beautifully ____ (adj)



Grammar · The passive voice (present & past)

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. What the passive does — We put the RESULT / the object at the start of the sentence, when the doer is unknown, obvious or not important. • Active: Somebody makes these T-shirts in Portugal. • Passive: These T-shirts are made in Portugal.

2. Form — present simple passive — SUBJECT + am / is / are + past participle (+ by ...) • The bread IS BAKED every morning. • These shoes ARE MADE in Braga. • The report IS WRITTEN by the intern.

3. Form — past simple passive — SUBJECT + was / were + past participle (+ by ...) • The building WAS BUILT in 1902. • The photos WERE TAKEN by a professional.

4. When we mention the doer — Add 'by + person/thing' ONLY when it matters. • The Mona Lisa was painted BY Leonardo. (important) • My phone was stolen. (we don't know who — no 'by')

Exercise A — Change to passive (present or past)

Rewrite each sentence in the passive.

1. Somebody makes these shoes in Portugal.

2. They sell fresh bread every morning.

3. A local baker baked this cake yesterday.

4. Somebody stole my phone last night.

5. They built this church in 1560.

Exercise B — Choose active or passive

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb.

1. This T-shirt ____ (make) in Portugal.

2. My grandmother ____ (make) delicious soup every Sunday.

3. The palace ____ (build) in the 18th century.

4. The workers ____ (finish) the project last week.

5. English ____ (speak) in many countries.

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**Exercise C — Find and fix the mistake**

Each sentence has ONE mistake.

1. These shoes are make in Italy.

2. The report was writing by the intern.

3. My phone was stole yesterday.

4. The house built in 1920.

Exercise D — Describe a process

Write ONE passive sentence for each stage of making bread.

1. Stage 1: someone weighs the flour.

2. Stage 2: someone mixes the ingredients.

3. Stage 3: someone leaves the dough to rise.

4. Stage 4: someone bakes the bread.

5. Stage 5: someone sells it in the shop.

Exercise E — About you

Complete each sentence about YOUR life or country.

1. In Portugal, ____ (produce)...

2. In my hometown, ____ (build) in the year ____

3. Every morning in my house, ____ (do) by ____

Exercise F — Complete the mini-tour

Complete each gap with the correct passive form.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. The cork ____ (harvest) every 9 years and ____ (dry) for several months before it ____ (turn) into stoppers.

2. This tile ____ (paint) by hand in 1898 and it ____ (never / clean) with anything stronger than water.

Listening · A tour of a small Portuguese factory

A visitor tours a small textile factory in Guimarães. The guide describes how the shirts are made. Notice the passive throughout.

pre

Have you ever visited a workshop or factory? What did you see?

What do you think is the most difficult step in making clothes?

gist

1. What is made in this factory?

2. How many people work there?

3. How long does one shirt take to make?

detail

1. Where does the cotton come from?

2. What was surprising about the price?

3. What is the newest thing in the factory?

Third listen — read between the lines

Answer from what is IMPLIED.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. Is the guide proud of the factory?

2. Is the visitor going to buy differently after this tour?

Useful language from the audio

Match each phrase to what it does.

"The shirts are made here from start to finish." — present passive — process

"The cotton is grown in Turkey." — present passive — origin

"That machine was bought last year." — past passive — a specific past event

"Each shirt is sold to the brand at around 22€." — present passive with a price

"Come this way, please." — friendly instruction from the guide

Voice A: Welcome. Come this way, please — mind the step. The shirts are made here from start to finish.

Voice B: Everything, in one factory?

Voice A: Everything. The cotton is grown in Turkey — we haven't bought Asian cotton for 5 years. Then it's spun in a partner mill 20 minutes away, and the fabric arrives here on Monday mornings.

Voice B: And you make shirts for which brands?

Voice A: Two luxury names — one in Paris, one in Milan. I can't say the names, but you'd recognise both.

Voice B: How long does one shirt take?

Voice A: About 40 minutes of hands-on work. Spread across three days — cutting, sewing, drying, finishing. Each shirt is sold to the brand at around 22€.

Voice B: And in the shop?

Voice A: Around 190€.

Voice B: Wow.

Voice A: Wow indeed. Over here — this machine was bought last year. It's cut cotton waste by 30%. Small change, big difference over a year.

Voice B: And how many people work here?

Voice A: 42, most from Guimarães. I know all their names. Some of them, their parents used to work here too.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Fourth listen — fill the gaps

Listen again and complete the exact phrases.

1. The shirts ____ here from start to finish.

2. The cotton ____ in Turkey.

3. That machine ____ last year.

4. Each shirt ____ to the brand at around 22€.

Speaking · Describe a process (or a place)

In pairs, describe a process or a place. Use at least SIX passive sentences (mix of present and past).

Scene: How your favourite dish is made

A: You: describe the 5 steps in the passive.

B: You: ask 3 questions about the process.

Scene: How your hometown was built / changed

A: You: describe using past passive.

B: You: ask 3 questions.

Scene: How your Sunday morning is organised

A: You: describe using present passive.

B: You: ask 3 questions.

Discussion · shopping & products

Choose 2 questions and speak for 30–45 seconds each.

Do you check where things are made before buying them?

Is fast fashion 'bad' or just 'convenient'?

Would you buy more second-hand? What stops you?

What's the best thing MADE IN YOUR COUNTRY that the world doesn't know?

Role-play · Returning a faulty item

Read your role, prepare, then run the conversation for 2 minutes.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Scene: You want to return a shirt that was made badly — a button is missing after one wash

A: You: polite but firm customer. Ask for a full refund. Use at least 2 passive sentences.

B: You: the shop assistant. Offer an exchange first; refund is a last resort.

Mini-presentation · 60-second product story

Deliver a 60-second story of ONE product (something you own, or a Portuguese product). Use at least FIVE passives.

Beat 1 (10s) — What the product is.

Beat 2 (15s) — Where the materials come from.

Beat 3 (20s) — How it's made (passives).

Beat 4 (15s) — Why it's worth (or NOT worth) the price.

sample: This is a cork bag from Alentejo. The cork is harvested from trees every 9 years — the tree is never cut down. It's dried for six months, then cut into thin sheets, then sewn onto a fabric backing. My bag was bought in Évora three years ago for 55€. It's a bit expensive for a small bag, but it's still perfect. So yes — worth it.

Writing · A short product description

Write 80–100 words describing ONE product from your country. Use at least FIVE passive sentences.

bonus: Bonus — Rewrite the same paragraph WITHOUT any passives. Which version sounds more natural for this topic?

Wrap-up · What did we cover?

Passive = am / is / are (or was / were) + past participle.

Use the passive when the doer is unknown, obvious, or not important.

Add 'by + person' only if it matters (Mona Lisa was painted BY Leonardo).

A €5 T-shirt is a system, not a bargain.

Quiz

- "These shoes ____ in Portugal."
(A) are made
(B) make
(C) is made
- "The report ____ by the intern yesterday."
(A) writes
(B) was written
(C) is written

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



3. 'Fast fashion' means...
- (A) clothes made slowly
 - (B) cheap trend-based clothes made very quickly
 - (C) sportswear
4. "This church ____ in 1560."
- (A) was built
 - (B) built
 - (C) is built
5. 'Worth the price' means...
- (A) a rip-off
 - (B) deserves the money you pay
 - (C) very cheap



Workbook — home practice

1. Vocabulary recall

Complete each sentence with the best word from the class-book lesson.

1. Write ONE new word from the lesson and its meaning in your own words.

2. Write ONE collocation from the lesson and use it in a sentence about your life.

3. Write ONE phrase you'd use in real conversation this week.

2. Grammar practice · Passive voice (present & past)

Rewrite each sentence using the target grammar of this lesson.

1. Sentence 1 → rewrite it correctly with the target grammar.

2. Sentence 2 → rewrite it correctly with the target grammar.

3. Sentence 3 → find and fix ONE mistake.

4. Sentence 4 → complete the gap with the correct form.

5. Sentence 5 → write your own example, true about you.

3. Reading recall

Look back at the class-book reading. Answer briefly in your own words.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



1. What was the main idea in ONE sentence?

2. What is ONE opinion of the writer you agree with?

3. What is ONE opinion you disagree with, and why?

4. Listening · a follow-up dialogue

Two voices talk about money & shopping for about a minute. Notice the target grammar in use.

1. What is the main topic of the conversation?

2. Who sounds more confident and why?

3. Which target-grammar phrase appears TWICE in the audio?

Voice A: So — tell me about your money & shopping this week. Anything different?

Voice B: Honestly, yes. I've been trying something new — and it's changed how I feel completely.

Voice A: Give me one specific example — I want the small detail, not the big story.

Voice B: OK: I stopped checking my phone before bed. Just that. And I already sleep better.

5. Writing · a short reflection

Write 70–100 words about the theme of this lesson. Use at least 2 examples of the target grammar and 3 words from the vocabulary list.

6. Reflection

Look back at your notes from class. Answer briefly.

1. What is ONE thing from this lesson you already use naturally?

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



2. What is ONE thing you'd like to practise more this week? How exactly?

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Answer key — Class Book

Lead-in · True or False — the story of your stuff

1. TRUE — a widely cited figure from Wrap UK; some fast-fashion items even less.
2. TRUE — northern Portugal (Braga, Guimarães, Barcelos) supplies many luxury brands, including Hermès, Burberry and Prada.
3. TRUE-ISH — most credible estimates (UN, Ellen MacArthur Foundation) put it between 4% and 10%. Big number either way.
4. MOSTLY FALSE — it's cheap because someone (usually the worker) is paid very little. Efficiency plays a role, but wages are the bigger factor.
5. FALSE — the law only requires the LAST major stage (often finishing) to happen there. Fabric and cutting can be done elsewhere.

Reading · The T-shirt with three passports

1. (B) Five or more
2. (B) Low wages + massive quantities
3. (B) Buyers decide the price isn't fair
1. (B) False
2. (A) True
3. (A) True
4. (B) False
1. Model: I just checked — the top I'm wearing was made in Bangladesh, the trousers in Portugal, the jumper in China. Three countries in one outfit.
2. Model: honestly, for some items yes (basics I wear often); for one-off fashion pieces, I'm not sure.
1. cotton
2. warehouse
3. fast fashion

Vocabulary · Products & shopping

1. try on
2. suits
3. go with
4. worth the price
5. return
6. pre-owned
1. (D) sand
2. (D) onion
3. (D) pillow
1. production / produced
2. sale / sold out
3. design / designed

Grammar · The passive voice (present & past)

1. These shoes are made in Portugal.
2. Fresh bread is sold every morning.
3. This cake was baked yesterday (by a local baker).
4. My phone was stolen last night.
5. This church was built in 1560.
1. is made
2. makes
3. was built
4. finished
5. is spoken
1. These shoes are made in Italy.
2. The report was written by the intern.
3. My phone was stolen yesterday.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



4. The house was built in 1920.
1. The flour is weighed.
2. The ingredients are mixed.
3. The dough is left to rise.
4. The bread is baked.
5. It is sold in the shop.
1. Model: In Portugal, huge quantities of cork are produced — around 50% of the world's supply.
2. Model: In Coimbra, the university was built in the 13th century — one of the oldest in the world.
3. Model: Every morning in my house, coffee is made by me — always.
1. is harvested / is dried / is turned
2. was painted / is never cleaned

Listening · A tour of a small Portuguese factory

1. Cotton shirts, mostly for two luxury brands based in Paris and Milan.
2. 42 — most of them from Guimarães and the surrounding villages.
3. About 40 minutes of hands-on work, spread across three days of drying and finishing.
1. It's grown in Turkey, then spun in Portugal — the factory hasn't bought Asian cotton for 5 years.
2. Each shirt is sold to the brand at around 22€ and later sold in shops for 190€.
3. A machine bought last year that has cut cotton waste by 30%.
1. Yes — she uses 'we' warmly, mentions specific improvements, and knows workers' names.
2. Likely yes — several 'wow' reactions and specific questions about brand names show she's rethinking her wardrobe.
1. are made
2. is grown
3. was bought
4. is sold

Quiz

1. (A) are made
2. (B) was written
3. (B) cheap trend-based clothes made very quickly
4. (A) was built
5. (B) deserves the money you pay

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Answer key — Workbook

1. Vocabulary recall

1. Open answer — check with your teacher.
2. Open answer.
3. Open answer.

2. Grammar practice · Passive voice (present & past)

1. Model answer — see class notes.
2. Model answer — see class notes.
3. Model answer — see class notes.
4. Model answer — see class notes.
5. Open answer.

3. Reading recall

1. Open answer — around 15 words.
2. Open answer.
3. Open answer — 2 sentences.

4. Listening · a follow-up dialogue

1. Model: both speakers compare their own experience of money & shopping.
2. Open answer — look for specific detail and full sentences.
3. Open answer — see transcript.

6. Reflection

1. Open answer.
2. Open answer — be specific: what, when, how often.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class