

I. Text

The T-Shirt

It is Saturday afternoon, there is a long line of people outside the Hard Rock Café in New York City. They are all standing patiently on the sidewalk – not waiting to have cheeseburgers, but to go to the café's clothing section. After they have passed through a separate door they find themselves confronted with an especially great choice of all sizes and colors, some of which are as much as \$15.

All over the world billions of T-shirts, decorated with words and images, are put on every day by men, women and children of every part of society. These people may not know that the T-shirt once began as underwear and later was worn for outside work. One story has it that dock workers unloading tea in 17th-century Annapolis, Maryland, used to wear "Tea-shirts". "Tea" became "T", and the rest is history. One thing is sure: In 1913 the US Navy adopted the plain white cotton undershirt. Since then T-shirts have grown very popular with men and women who have served in the military, particularly in the tropics. They often became the only shirt worn in warmer climates. They are comfortable, look neat and wash easily. Once they are worn out, they are still useful. Soldiers, for instance, often enough use the cotton cloth for polishing the buttons on their uniforms, and even their shoes.

In the middle of this century great actors like James Dean and Marlon Brando, who often played the roles of young rebels in their films, made the T-shirt popular all over the world. In the 1960s young women stopped wearing blouses and knee-length skirts and started wearing T-shirts with blue jeans or miniskirts. Men are quite grateful that the T-shirt has won the battle over the tie. In many offices it is perfectly okay to wear a simple cotton T-shirt under a suit jacket.

In the late 1960s T-shirts were even painted with signs of peace and symbols of protest. Until then shirts with printed words on them were only worn by college sports teams. The 1970s can be called the golden age of the T-shirt. Americans wanted it to express their views. It showed what they thought, liked and the ideas they supported. A few examples may prove this: "Just Say No" (an antidrug message) or "I Am The Type Of Kid My Mother Told Me Not To Play With".

Meanwhile, a lot of people think that the freedom of the "T-shirt Press" has gone too far. Many American schools nowadays forbid certain T-shirt messages, particularly those that celebrate sex, the use of cigarettes, or radical slogans.

Questions on the text! Use your own words as far as possible.

1. Who are said to be the first people to have worn T-shirts and where does the name "T-shirt" come from? 10 BE

2. What functions did the T-Shirt in the 1960s and 1970s have? 10 BE

II. Mixed Grammar

Complete the text, using the words in brackets in the correct form! Sometimes you may have to add words!

Sheila Wright (to live) _____ in Cheltenham. She (just, to come) _____ back from a school trip to London. She (to wear) _____ a new pair of shoes. Looking at them her mother says: “Why (you, to buy) _____ these shoes in London?” Sheila replies that they are much cheaper there _____ in Cheltenham. “They are Doc Martens and (incredible, comfortable)_____. If we both (to take) _____ the same size, you could try them on.” Mrs Wright does not look very (happy) _____, so Sheila reads the story of the “DMs” to her from a brochure she found in the shoe box.

“Doc Martens (to invent) _____ in the forties by Claus Maertens, a Bavarian doctor, _____ experimented with old tyres to make a pair of shoes to wear after injuring his foot. He succeeded in getting a patent on the heavy shoe with the thick sole. In the sixties, Bill Griggs, a British shoe manufacturer, (to buy) _____ the license and sold shoes under the more English sounding name “Dr Martens”. The sales went up (dramatic) _____. Since the eighties the “DMs” (to become) _____ a fashion item.”

“Poor Mr Maertens,” says Mrs Wright, “if he (not to sell) _____ the license, he (to make) _____ a lot of money. – Well, I wouldn’t mind having a pair (oneself) _____. Anyhow, I (to go) _____ to London next Saturday.

III. Mediation – Florian’s e-mail to Mark

Florian wants to write an e-mail in English to his new friend Mark in New York. Follow the instructions below and write the e-mail to Florian.

- > Sagen Sie Mark, dass Ihre Rückreise schwierig war
 - eine Panne mit dem Mietwagen gehabt
 - der Wagen wurde von einem Mechaniker namens Thomas Scott repariert
 - viel Zeit gekostet
 - Flug verpasst

- > Erzählen Sie, dass Sie drei Stunden auf den nächsten Flug warten mussten
 - Sandwiches und Getränke zum Mittagessen gekauft
 - Picknick gemacht
 - ein Desaster
 - Vater kippte Orangensaft um
 - landete auf Mutters weißer Hose
 - Mutter schrie lauthals

- > Erzählen Sie, wie alle Leute geschaut haben
 - hoffentlich denken die Amerikaner nicht, dass Deutsche immer so laut sind
 - sagen Sie ihm, dass bei Ankunft in München die Probleme nicht vorbei waren
 - Koffer von allen Fluggästen da, nur Ihre nicht
 - noch in Schottland

- > Sagen Sie ihm, dass Sie gerne noch in New York geblieben wären
 - morgen müssen Sie wieder in die Schule

20 BE

IV. Personal comment

Are violent computer games responsible for the increasing crime rate among young people?

Write a personal comment (about 80 words)!

20BE

80BE