



## Designer Goods

### Task: The Effects Designer Goods Have on People

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 10.

You are going to hear a talk about the effects that designer goods have on people. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

Some people love designer goods, whilst others absolutely dislike them. Whatever your feelings are towards this, there is no doubt that it has made an impression on societies all over the world. Having been exposed to designer goods, have you noticed if there are more upsides to downsides or not?

Firstly and foremost, if we analyze the downsides, we should be able to see that wearing designer goods at times impresses the wrong type of people. They might only want to be your friend to help give them status, then consider who you really are as a person. On another note, it can be pretty insane what some people do to be fashionable. They may wear really tall heels that can cause them to sprain their ankle and tight clothing that may hurt their blood circulation. Therefore, they have the tendency to take fashion too far and cause themselves health problems in the long run. In addition, not only by buying designer goods are we promoting to hire underpaid people in third world countries, but also to encourage the hiring of unexperienced employees. Later, these same products will be sold for an ungodly amount of money and will be bought by many. The question begs to differ: Why would they spend so much money on these goods? Well, it is simple enough to consider them to be a symbol of wealth, although many do believe that it is really a symbol of inequality and elitism. Naturally, this has the negative consequence of encouraging people to buy the latest designer goods and this leads to overproducing.

Certainly, the downsides can put anybody off, but there are some fairly interesting upsides to be considered as well. Many individuals have come to argue that by buying designer goods, you are investing in products that are higher quality and may have the possibility of lasting longer. Some people have gone forth to compare this with clothes, amongst other things, bought in open air markets, where they claim the quality to be totally inferior to designer products. Furthermore, people that buy designer goods are known to stand out from the crowd and give a good appearance. Not everybody can afford this sort of lifestyle, and it totally catches the eye when somebody that can, passes before our eyes. A person may very well permit themselves this luxury with the objective of impressing others, rather it be socially or professionally. This can open doors for them to climb the ladder in their career, helping them become part of a status symbol. Last but not least, this is a way that somebody can express what they like and set the tone on how they would like to be seen by others. It can help make a person feel good about themselves and bring up their self-esteem.



From all the aforementioned, one can conclude that designer goods are very present in today's world. It may be wrong to spend so much money on designer goods, but it can really bring out the best in certain people. No matter how you feel about them, it is needless to say that nobody should judge a book by its cover, no matter if somebody chooses to use designer goods or not. You can really read somebody wrong if you base your opinion only on what they wear.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the downsides and upsides of designer goods.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, the downsides and upsides of designer goods. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• can bring out the best in certain people / shouldn't judge a book by its cover / reading people wrong only by what they wear</li></ul>
Downsides of designer goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impress the wrong type of people</li><li>• Take fashion to far, can cause health problems</li><li>• Promoting underpaid and underaged employees in third world countries</li><li>• Symbol of inequality and elitism</li><li>• Encourage people to buy the latest, overproducing</li></ul>
Upsides of designer goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Higher quality and may last longer</li><li>• Stand out from the crowd and give a person a good appearance</li><li>• Make a good impression with others, socially and professionally (open doors / climb the social ladder / status symbol)</li><li>• a way of expressing likes and how a person wants other to see them (can help make somebody feel good about themselves)</li></ul>

Marks: +\_ / +10



**Grammar Used in the listening task:**

- **Modifiers:** basically / quite / certainly
- **Intensifiers:** absolutely / completely / totally
- **Tentative Expressions:** I may be wrong but.... / Don't you think it might be....?
- **Signposting Words:** firstly / finally
- **Idioms / Expressions:** under the weather / to be bored to tears / sink or swim / a shoulder to cry on / turn a blind eye to / to my mind / small talk / get it off your chest / be at a loose end / make a move / laugh your head off