

Vocabulary: charity and recycling 词汇: 慈善和回收利用

What do you do with old stuff? That top you bought for a party three years ago, for example. You wore it once and it's been hanging in your wardrobe ever since. You could **throw** it **away**, but that seems **wasteful** – after all it's still perfectly **usable**. So, what to do? In the UK, we might take it to a **charity shop**.

The first charity shops appeared in Britain in the 19th Century. The Salvation Army, a UK charity, was one of the first to run a **second-hand** clothing shop to provide the **impoverished** and **needy** with affordable clothes. This was followed by charities such as the British Red Cross, who also **relieved hardship** and raised money for the war effort during World War Two. The modern form we know today was opened in 1947 by Oxfam.

These days, charity shops are a common sight with around 11,200 shops across the UK, according to the Charity Retail Association. During business hours any member of the public can **donate** their **unwanted** items to a charity shop – clothes, books, electronics, furniture. Most charity shops will take anything. These items are checked for **wear and tear** and if found still **serviceable**, priced up to be sold at a heavily discounted price.

For many, this is a win-win situation. To the charity, it means a valuable source of revenue, which they can use to pursue their charitable aim. To the consumer, it provides the opportunity to buy, often extremely cheaply, items and clothes. Though **previously owned**, they are **durable**. To the donator, it **declutters** and may help to assuage consumer guilt. “You can make a pretty good case to yourself that you are **doing good**, because what you are doing is going towards a **charitable cause** [and] you are saving stuff from landfill,” Clare Press, fashion journalist and **sustainable** style advocate, tells the Guardian. Indeed, approximately £140 million worth of clothing alone goes into landfill each year, according to UK charity WRAP, the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

There are sometimes **hidden treasures** for the buyers, too. On more than one occasion a buyer has purchased something very cheaply, only to later discover its true value – such as a screen print bought for 99p and later found to be by English artist Ben Nicholson. It sold at auction for £4,200. So next time you need to rid yourself of something, spare a thought for the charity shop – after all, **charity begins at home!**

词汇表

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| throw away | 扔掉 |
| wasteful | 浪费的 |
| usable | 能用的 |
| charity shop | 慈善商店 |
| second-hand | 二手的 |
| impoverished | 贫困的 |
| needy | 穷苦的, 贫寒的 |
| relieve hardship | 解困 |
| donate | 捐出 |
| unwanted | 不需要的, 多余的 |
| wear and tear | 磨损 |
| serviceable | 可以使用的 |
| previously owned | 二手的 |
| durable | 耐用的 |
| declutter | 清理 (多余的物品) |
| do good | 做好事 |
| charitable cause | 慈善事业 |
| sustainable | 可持续的 |
| hidden treasure | 隐藏的宝藏 |
| charity begins at home | 好事从身边做起 |

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. When was the first charitable sale of second-hand clothing in Britain?
2. What do charity shops do before selling items?
3. Why are charity shops advantageous for charities?
4. How much clothing is thrown away in the UK each year?
5. Which word in the text means 'make unpleasant feelings less strong'?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I'm selling raffle tickets to raise money for a _____. Will you buy one?

| | | | |
|-------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| needy | unwanted | hidden treasure | charitable cause |
|-------|----------|-----------------|------------------|

2. How can you work with this mess on your desk? I think you need to _____ it.

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------|
| declutter | throw away | relieve | durable |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------|

3. It's a tough jacket but it's showing signs of _____. See? The sleeve is ripped.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|
| second-hand | hardship | wear and tear | durable |
|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|

4. You eat all your food and don't be _____. There are many people who are hungry.

| | | | |
|---------|----------|--------------|-------|
| useable | wasteful | impoverished | needy |
|---------|----------|--------------|-------|

5. It's an old car, but it's still _____. Just don't drive it hundreds of miles in one go!

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| serviceable | previously owned | hidden treasure | do good |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. When was the first charitable sale of second-hand clothing in Britain?
The first 'charity shops' sold clothes in the 19th Century.
2. What do charity shops do before selling items?
They check items for wear and tear and then price them up.
3. Why are charity shops advantageous for charities?
Because charity shops provide charities with a valuable source of revenue which they can use to pursue their charitable aim.
4. How much clothing is thrown away in the UK each year?
Approximately £140 million worth of clothing goes into landfill each year.
5. Which word in the text means 'make unpleasant feelings less strong'?
Assuage. To the donator, it declutters and may help to assuage consumer guilt.

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I'm selling raffle tickets to raise money for a **charitable cause**. Will you buy one?
2. How can you work with this mess on your desk? I think you need to **declutter** it.
3. It's a tough jacket but it's showing signs of **wear and tear**. See? The sleeve is ripped.
4. You eat all your food and don't be **wasteful**. There are many people who are hungry.
5. It's an old car, but it's still **serviceable**. Just don't drive it hundreds of miles in one go!