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**Level 6 – 30th October, 2019**

## **Kurt Cobain cardigan auctions for \$334,000**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

A cardigan that was worn by the singer Kurt Cobain during a live appearance on MTV has broken the record for the most expensive cardigan ever sold at auction. An anonymous buyer forked out an astonishing \$334,000 for the piece of apparel. The cardigan was part of a two-day sale of rock memorabilia at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York. It attracted a lot of attention pre-auction when the auction house described it as being "one of the most famous sweaters in music history". Cobain wore the olive green acrylic and mohair cardigan while performing live on the TV show MTV Unplugged in November 1993 with his band Nirvana. He played a largely acoustic set of his favorite songs and cover songs.

The cardigan was made by the maker Manhattan. It has reportedly never been washed since Cobain last wore it and has a hole in it from a cigarette burn. The cardigan was previously bought in 2015 by a buyer who wished to remain anonymous but has since spoken about his purchase. The owner described the responsibility he felt in owning such a famous piece of rock and roll history. He told reporters: "I thought, 'Oh, now I'm also going to be responsible for this.' It was kind of like when my children were born years ago - I was so happy to see them, but then I was like, 'Oh no.'" For those who cannot afford auctions, Mr Cobain's daughter has started a fashion collection called Kurt Was Here.

Sources: <https://www.itv.com/news/2019-10-27/kurt-cobain-s-mtv-unplugged-cardigan-sold-at-auction-for-a-record-260-000/>  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/fashion/kurt-cobain-cardigan-nirvana-mtv-unplugged-auction-sale-hard-rock-cafe-new-york-a9173086.html>  
<https://www.nme.com/news/music/kurt-cobains-mtv-unplugged-cardigan-sells-for-record-breaking-260000-2561505>

# WARM-UPS

**1. CARDIGANS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about cardigans. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

cardigan / singer / appearance / expensive / memorabilia / auction / acoustic / song / Manhattan / washed / cigarette / burn / anonymous / rock 'n' roll / history / fashion

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. AUCTIONS:** Students A **strongly** believe half the price paid at auctions should go to charity; Students B **strongly** believe not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. MEMORABILIA:** What memorabilia might people like regarding these things? Why? Would you like these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

|               | What? | Why? | You |
|---------------|-------|------|-----|
| Rock 'n' Roll |       |      |     |
| Movie         |       |      |     |
| Military      |       |      |     |
| Sports        |       |      |     |
| Computing     |       |      |     |
| Politics      |       |      |     |

**5. ANONYMOUS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "anonymous". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. MUSIC:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- grunge
- rock and roll
- new wave
- grime
- rap
- pop
- heavy metal
- electro-dance

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. appearance  | a. Things that are kept or collected because of their historical interest, especially those associated with famous people or events. |
| 2. forked out  | b. Extremely surprising or impressive; amazing.  |
| 3. astonishing | c. Paid a lot of money (informal).   |
| 4. apparel     | d. A recording or performance of a previously recorded song made especially to take advantage of the original's success.             |
| 5. memorabilia | e. An act of performing or participating in a public event.  |
| 6. acoustic    | f. Clothing.   |
| 7. cover songs | g. Music or musicians not without electrical instruments.  |

## Paragraph 2

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 8. maker           | h. A (usually black) mark left on something as a result of fire or heat.                        |
| 9. burn            | i. The state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone. |
| 10. anonymous      | j. A range of new clothes produced by a fashion house.  |
| 11. purchase       | k. Not being identified by name; of unknown name.   |
| 12. responsibility | l. Have enough money to pay for.  |
| 13. afford         | m. Acquire something by paying for it; buy.   |
| 14. collection     | n. A person or thing that makes or produces something.  |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Kurt Cobain wore the cardigan just one time, at a photo shoot. **T / F**
- b. The buyer was one of Kurt Cobain's old managers. **T / F**
- c. The cardigan was an olive green in colour. **T / F**
- d. Kurt Cobain played a wholly acoustic set on an MTV show. **T / F**
- e. The cardigan was made in Manhattan, New York. **T / F**
- f. The cardigan had a cigarette burn on it. **T / F**
- g. A previous owner of the cardigan spoke about the responsibility he felt. **T / F**
- h. Kurt Cobain's son created a fashion line called Kurt Was Here. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1. forked out</b>  | a. mainly       |
| <b>2. apparel</b>     | b. pay for      |
| <b>3. attracted</b>   | c. manufacturer |
| <b>4. live</b>        | d. possessing   |
| <b>5. largely</b>     | e. paid         |
| <b>6. maker</b>       | f. drew         |
| <b>7. remain</b>      | g. line         |
| <b>8. owning</b>      | h. in person    |
| <b>9. afford</b>      | i. stay         |
| <b>10. collection</b> | j. clothing     |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. during a live appearance           | a. collection            |
| 2. the piece of                       | b. songs                 |
| 3. the olive green acrylic and mohair | c. rock and roll history |
| 4. He played a largely acoustic       | d. been washed           |
| 5. cover                              | e. apparel               |
| 6. It has reportedly never            | f. anonymous             |
| 7. a hole in it from                  | g. set                   |
| 8. a buyer who wished to remain       | h. on MTV                |
| 9. a famous piece of                  | i. a cigarette burn      |
| 10. started a fashion                 | j. cardigan              |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

A cardigan that was worn by the singer Kurt Cobain during a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ appearance on MTV has broken the record for the most expensive cardigan ever sold at auction. An anonymous buyer (2) \_\_\_\_\_ out an astonishing \$334,000 for the piece of (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The cardigan was part of a two-day sale of rock (4) \_\_\_\_\_ at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York. It attracted a lot of (5) \_\_\_\_\_ pre-auction when the auction house described it as being "one of the most famous sweaters in music history". Cobain wore the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ green acrylic and mohair cardigan while performing live on the TV show MTV Unplugged in November 1993 with his band Nirvana. He played a largely (7) \_\_\_\_\_ set of his favorite songs and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ songs.

*forked*  
*attention*  
*acoustic*  
*live*  
*memorabilia*  
*cover*  
*apparel*  
*olive*

The cardigan was made by the maker Manhattan. It has (9) \_\_\_\_\_ never been washed since Cobain last wore it and has a hole in it from a cigarette (10) \_\_\_\_\_. The cardigan was previously bought in 2015 by a buyer who wished to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ anonymous but has since spoken about his (12) \_\_\_\_\_. The owner described the responsibility he felt in owning such a famous (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of rock and roll history. He told reporters: "I thought, 'Oh, now I'm also going to be (14) \_\_\_\_\_ for this.' It was kind of like when my children were born years ago - I was so happy to see them, but then I was like, 'Oh no.'" For those who cannot (15) \_\_\_\_\_ auctions, Mr Cobain's daughter has started a fashion (16) \_\_\_\_\_ called Kurt Was Here.

*burn*  
*responsible*  
*purchase*  
*collection*  
*reportedly*  
*afford*  
*remain*  
*piece*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

- 1) A cardigan that was worn by the singer Kurt Cobain \_\_\_\_\_ appearance
  - a. during alive
  - b. enduring a live
  - c. injuring alive
  - d. during a live
- 2) broken the record for the most expensive cardigan ever \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. sold at auction
  - b. sold on auction
  - c. sold in auction
  - d. sold of auction
- 3) An anonymous buyer forked out an astonishing \$334,000 for the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. piece of apparatus
  - b. piece of apparent
  - c. piece of app real
  - d. piece of apparel
- 4) the auction house described it as being one of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. most famous sweetsies
  - b. most famous sweats
  - c. most famous sweeteners
  - d. most famous sweaters
- 5) He played a largely acoustic set of his favorite songs \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. and clover songs
  - b. and cover songs
  - c. and covert songs
  - d. and cove a songs
- 6) never been washed since Cobain last wore it and has a hole in it from \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a cigarette burnt
  - b. a cigarette burns
  - c. a cigarette burn
  - d. a cigarette bun
- 7) bought in 2015 by a buyer who wished \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to remain moneyless
  - b. to remain eponymous
  - c. to remain anonymous
  - d. to remain acrimonious
- 8) The owner described the responsibility he felt in owning such \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a famous peace
  - b. a famous pierce
  - c. a famous piece
  - d. a famous price
- 9) I was so happy to see them, but then I was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. like, 'I know'
  - b. like, 'Oh now'
  - c. like, 'No no'
  - d. like, 'Oh no'
- 10) For those who cannot afford auctions, Mr Cobain's daughter has started \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. a fashion collection
  - b. a fashions collection
  - c. a fashioned collection
  - d. a fashion collections

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

A cardigan that was worn by the singer Kurt Cobain (1) \_\_\_\_\_ appearance on MTV has broken the record for the most expensive cardigan ever sold at auction. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ forked out an astonishing \$334,000 for the piece of apparel. The cardigan was part of a two-day sale (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York. It attracted a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ pre-auction when the auction house described it as being "one of the most famous sweaters in music history". Cobain wore the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and mohair cardigan while performing live on the TV show MTV Unplugged in November 1993 with his band Nirvana. He played a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of his favorite songs and cover songs.

The cardigan was made by the maker Manhattan. It (7) \_\_\_\_\_ been washed since Cobain last wore it and has a hole in it from (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The cardigan was previously bought in 2015 by a buyer who wished to remain anonymous but has since spoken (9) \_\_\_\_\_. The owner described the responsibility he felt in owning such a famous piece of rock and roll history. He told reporters: "I thought, 'Oh, now I'm also going to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ this.' It was kind of like when my children were born years ago - I was so happy to see them, but then I was like, 'Oh no.'" For those (11) \_\_\_\_\_ auctions, Mr Cobain's daughter has started (12) \_\_\_\_\_ called Kurt Was Here.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

1. On what TV show did Kurt Cobain wear the cardigan?
2. What is the name of the person who bought the cardigan?
3. Where was on sale at the two-day auction in New York?
4. What colour is the cardigan?
5. What songs did Kurt Cobain play besides his favourites?
6. What is the name of the brand that made the cardigan?
7. What burnt a hole in the cardigan?
8. When was the cardigan previously bought?
9. What did the previous owner say he felt owning the cardigan?
10. What is the name of Kurt Cobain's daughter's fashion collection?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

- 1) On what TV show did Kurt Cobain wear the cardigan?
  - a) Netflix
  - b) MTV
  - c) BBC Music
  - d) CNN
- 2) What is the name of the person who bought the cardigan?
  - a) Bartholomew Grindshaw III
  - b) Alicia Z
  - c) Bob
  - d) no one knows
- 3) Where was on sale at the two-day auction in New York?
  - a) stuff from the 1990s
  - b) famous cardigans
  - c) rock memorabilia
  - d) Nirvana goods
- 4) What colour is the cardigan?
  - a) olive green
  - b) lemon yellow
  - c) ruby red
  - d) pearl white
- 5) What songs did Kurt Cobain play besides his favourites?
  - a) heavy metal songs
  - b) cover songs
  - c) opera arias
  - d) folk songs
- 6) What is the name of the brand that made the cardigan?
  - a) Manhattan
  - b) Mayfair
  - c) Ginza
  - d) Montmartre
- 7) What burnt a hole in the cardigan?
  - a) acid
  - b) a spark
  - c) a cigarette
  - d) an iron
- 8) When was the cardigan previously bought?
  - a) 2015
  - b) 2013
  - c) 2011
  - d) 2009
- 9) What did the previous owner say he felt owning the cardigan?
  - a) wonder and awe
  - b) bad
  - c) guilt
  - d) responsibility
- 10) What is the name of Kurt Cobain's daughter's fashion collection?
  - a) Forever Kurt
  - b) Kurt Designs
  - c) Kurt Was Here
  - d) Nirvana Designs

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

## **Role A – Grunge**

You think grunge is the best form of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): heavy metal, electro-dance or grime.

## **Role B – Heavy Metal**

You think heavy metal is the best form of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): grunge, electro-dance or grime.

## **Role C – Electro-Dance**

You think electro-dance is the best form of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): heavy metal, grunge or grime.

## **Role D – Grime**

You think grime is the best form of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): heavy metal, electro-dance or grunge.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'cardigan' and 'nirvana'.

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>cardigan</b> | <b>nirvana</b> |
|-----------------|----------------|

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• singer</li><li>• forked</li><li>• day</li><li>• lot</li><li>• olive</li><li>• covers</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maker</li><li>• burn</li><li>• 2015</li><li>• felt</li><li>• ago</li><li>• daughter</li></ul> |
|--|---|

# CARDIGANS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

Write five GOOD questions about cardigans in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

|      | STUDENT 1<br>_____ | STUDENT 2<br>_____ | STUDENT 3<br>_____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.2. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.3. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.4. |                    |                    |                    |
| Q.5. |                    |                    |                    |

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# CARDIGANS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'cardigan'?
3. What do you think of auctions?
4. What do you know about Kurt Cobain?
5. Would you buy the clothes of a famous person?
6. Are cardigans only for old people?
7. Do cardigans exist in every culture?
8. What rock and roll memorabilia would you like to buy?
9. Which memorabilia is better - movie or rock 'n' roll?
10. Why do people spend lots of money on memorabilia?

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# CARDIGANS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'nirvana'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of cardigans?
15. What kinds of cardigans would you wear?
16. Why might someone feel responsible for owning the cardigan?
17. Would you be happy to receive a cardigan as a gift?
18. What is your favorite item of clothing?
19. What clothes would you design in your own fashion collection?
20. What questions would you like to ask the buyer?

## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

A cardigan that was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ by the singer Kurt Cobain during a live appearance on MTV has broken the record for the most expensive cardigan ever sold at auction. An anonymous buyer (2) \_\_\_\_\_ out an astonishing \$334,000 for the piece of apparel. The cardigan was part of a two-day sale of rock (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York. It attracted a lot of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ pre-auction when the auction house described it as being "one of the most famous sweaters in music history". Cobain wore the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ green acrylic and mohair cardigan while performing live on the TV show MTV Unplugged in November 1993 with his band Nirvana. He played a largely (6) \_\_\_\_\_ set of his favorite songs and cover songs.

The cardigan was made by the maker Manhattan. It has (7) \_\_\_\_\_ never been washed since Cobain last wore it and has a hole in it from a cigarette (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The cardigan was previously bought in 2015 by a buyer who wished to remain anonymous but has since spoken about his purchase. The owner described the responsibility he felt in (9) \_\_\_\_\_ such a famous piece of rock and roll history. He told reporters: "I thought, 'Oh, now I'm also going to be responsible for this.' It was (10) \_\_\_\_\_ of like when my children were born years ago - I was so happy to see them, but then I was like, 'Oh no.'" For those who cannot (11) \_\_\_\_\_ auctions, Mr Cobain's daughter has started a fashion (12) \_\_\_\_\_ called Kurt Was Here.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |               |                |                 |
|-----|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) wearing    | (b) worn      | (c) wearer     | (d) wore        |
| 2.  | (a) spooned    | (b) forked    | (c) knifed     | (d) plated      |
| 3.  | (a) remembered | (b) memorize  | (c) memorial   | (d) memorabilia |
| 4.  | (a) attraction | (b) attention | (c) attentive  | (d) attach      |
| 5.  | (a) ruby       | (b) olive     | (c) sapphire   | (d) carrot      |
| 6.  | (a) pilot      | (b) sensor    | (c) acoustic   | (d) conclave    |
| 7.  | (a) assumed    | (b) mentioned | (c) reportedly | (d) rarely      |
| 8.  | (a) burning    | (b) burnt     | (c) burn       | (d) burns       |
| 9.  | (a) awning     | (b) avowing   | (c) owing      | (d) owning      |
| 10. | (a) kind       | (b) such      | (c) any        | (d) some        |
| 11. | (a) afford     | (b) buy       | (c) spend      | (d) purchase    |
| 12. | (a) gathering  | (b) assembly  | (c) collection | (d) amass       |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. during a live cpaaaernep on MTV
2. an tiosnshniga \$334,000
3. the piece of epaalpr
4. a two-day sale of rock elroaimamib
5. green icclary and mohair cardigan
6. He played a largely taiccsou set

## Paragraph 2

7. It has yelerorptd never been washed
8. a buyer who wished to remain ynnmuoos
9. spoken about his ecrphusa
10. the iypliostersnbi he felt
11. For those who cannot afford tscnoiau
12. started a fashion lecciltoon

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( **1** ) A cardigan that was worn by the singer Kurt Cobain during a live appearance on MTV has broken
- ( ) responsibility he felt in owning such a famous piece of rock and roll history. He told reporters: "I thought, 'Oh, now I'm also
- ( ) going to be responsible for this.' It was kind of like when my children were born years
- ( ) out an astonishing \$334,000 for the piece of apparel. The cardigan was part of a two-day sale of rock
- ( ) ago - I was so happy to see them, but then I was like, 'Oh no.'" For those who cannot
- ( ) the record for the most expensive cardigan ever sold at auction. An anonymous buyer forked
- ( ) afford auctions, Mr Cobain's daughter has started a fashion collection called Kurt Was Here.
- ( ) green acrylic and mohair cardigan while performing live on the TV show MTV Unplugged in
- ( ) November 1993 with his band Nirvana. He played a largely acoustic set of his favorite songs and cover songs.
- ( ) The cardigan was made by the maker Manhattan. It has reportedly never been washed since Cobain last
- ( ) wore it and has a hole in it from a cigarette burn. The cardigan was previously bought in 2015 by a
- ( ) buyer who wished to remain anonymous but has since spoken about his purchase. The owner described the
- ( ) memorabilia at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York. It attracted a lot of attention pre-auction when the auction
- ( ) house described it as being "one of the most famous sweaters in music history". Cobain wore the olive

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

1. the Broken the cardigan . expensive most record for
2. anonymous An buyer forked \$334,000 . out an astonishing
3. attracted It pre-auction . of attention lot a
4. on performing While MTV . the TV live show
5. his songs . largely favorite acoustic A set of
6. burn . It hole from has cigarette a a
7. to buyer remain anonymous . who A wished
8. owner he the responsibility The described felt .
9. born When ago . years my children were
10. started has fashion a daughter collection . Cobain's

## CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

A cardigan that was *worn / wore* by the singer Kurt Cobain during a live appearance on MTV has broken the record for the most *expansive / expensive* cardigan ever sold *at / on* auction. An anonymous buyer forked *out / in* an astonishing \$334,000 for the piece of *apparatus / apparel*. The cardigan was part of a two-day sale of rock *memorabilia / memorial* at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York. It attracted a lot of *attraction / attention* pre-auction when the auction house described it as being "one of the most famous *sweaters / sweats* in music history". Cobain wore the olive green acrylic and mohair cardigan while performing *live / life* on the TV show MTV Unplugged in November 1993 with his band Nirvana. He played a largely acoustic set of his favorite songs and *recover / cover* songs.

The cardigan was made by the maker Manhattan. It has *repeatedly / reportedly* never been washed since Cobain last wore it and has a hole in it from a cigarette *burning / burn*. The cardigan was previously *bought / bring* in 2015 by a buyer who wished to *remain / still* anonymous but has since spoken about his *purchase / grasp*. The owner described the responsibility he felt in *owning / allowing* such a famous piece of rock and roll history. He told reporters: "I thought, 'Oh, now I'm also going to be *responsibility / responsible* for this.' It was kind of like when my children were *birth / born* years ago - I was so happy to see them, but then I was like, 'Oh no.'" For those who cannot *afford / affront* auctions, Mr Cobain's daughter has started a fashion *collectable / collection* called Kurt Was Here.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

A c\_r d\_g\_n t h\_t w\_s w\_r n b y t h\_ s\_n g\_r K\_r  
t C\_b\_\_ n d\_r n g \_ l\_v\_ \_p p\_\_ r\_n c\_\_ n M T V h\_s  
b r\_k\_n t h\_ r\_c\_r d f\_r t h\_ m\_s t \_x p\_n s\_v\_ c\_r  
d\_g\_n \_v\_r s\_l d \_t \_\_ c t\_\_ n . A n \_n\_n y m\_\_ s  
b\_y\_r f\_r k\_d \_\_ t \_n \_s t\_n\_s h\_n g \$ 3 3 4 , 0 0 0  
f\_r t h\_ p\_\_ c\_ \_f \_p p\_r\_l . T h\_ c\_r d\_g\_n w\_s p\_r  
t \_f \_ t w\_- d\_y s\_l \_f r\_c k m\_m\_r\_b\_l\_\_ \_t t h\_  
H\_r d R\_c k C\_f\_ \_n N\_w Y\_r k . I t \_t t r\_c t\_d \_  
l\_t \_f \_t t\_n t\_\_ n p r\_-\_\_ c t\_\_ n w h\_n t h\_ \_\_ c t\_\_  
n h\_\_ s\_ d\_s c r\_b\_d \_t\_s b\_\_ n g " \_n \_f t h\_ m\_s  
t f\_m\_\_ s s w\_\_ t\_r s \_n m\_s\_c h\_s t\_r y " . C\_b\_\_  
n w\_r t h\_ \_l\_v\_ g\_r\_\_ n \_c r\_y\_l\_c \_n d m\_h\_\_ r c\_r  
d\_g\_n w h\_l\_ p\_r f\_r m\_n g \_l\_v\_ \_n t h\_ T V s h\_w  
M T V U n p\_l\_g g\_d \_n N\_v\_m b\_r 1 9 9 3 w\_t h h\_s  
b\_n d N\_r v\_n\_ . H\_ p\_l\_y\_d \_ l\_r g\_l\_y \_c\_\_ s t\_c s\_t  
\_f h\_s f\_v\_r\_t\_ s\_n g\_s \_n d c\_v\_r s\_n g\_s .

T h\_ c\_r d\_g\_n w\_s m\_d\_ b y t h\_ m\_k\_r M\_n h\_t  
t\_n . I t h\_s r\_p\_r t\_d l y n\_v\_r b\_\_ n w\_s h\_d  
s\_n c\_ C\_b\_\_ n l\_s t w\_r \_t \_n d h\_s \_ h\_l\_ \_n \_t  
f\_r\_m \_ c\_g\_r\_t t\_ b\_r n . T h\_ c\_r d\_g\_n w\_s p  
r\_v\_\_s l y b\_\_ g h t \_n 2 0 1 5 b y \_ b\_y\_r w h\_  
w\_s h\_d t\_ r\_m\_\_ n \_n\_n y m\_\_ s b\_t h\_s s\_n c\_ s  
p\_k\_n \_b\_\_ t h\_s p\_r c\_h\_s\_ . T h\_ \_w n\_r d\_s c r\_b\_d  
t h\_ r\_s p\_n s\_b\_l\_t y h\_ f\_l t \_n \_w n\_n g s\_c h \_  
f\_m\_\_ s p\_\_ c\_ \_f r\_c k \_n d r\_l l h\_s t\_r y . H\_ t\_l  
d r\_p\_r t\_r s : " I t h\_\_ g h t , ' O h , n\_w I ' m \_l  
s\_ g\_\_ n g t\_ b\_ r\_s p\_n s\_b\_l\_ f\_r t h\_s . ' I t w\_s  
k\_n d \_f l\_k\_ w h\_n m\_y c\_h\_l d\_r\_n w\_r\_ b\_r n y\_\_  
r\_s \_g\_ - I w\_s s\_ h\_p\_p y t\_ s\_\_ t h\_m , b\_t t  
h\_n I w\_s l\_k\_ , ' O h n\_ . ' " F\_r t h\_s\_ w h\_ c\_n  
n\_t \_f f\_r d \_\_ c t\_\_ n s , M\_r C\_b\_\_ n ' s d\_\_ g h t\_r  
h\_s s\_t\_r t\_d \_ f\_s h\_\_ n c\_l l\_c t\_\_ n c\_l l\_d K\_r t  
W\_s H\_r\_ .

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

a cardigan that was worn by the singer kurt cobain during a live appearance on mtv has broken the record for the most expensive cardigan ever sold at auction an anonymous buyer forked out an astonishing 334000 for the piece of apparel the cardigan was part of a twoday sale of rock memorabilia at the hard rock cafe in new york it attracted a lot of attention preauction when the auction house described it as being one of the most famous sweaters in music history cobain wore the olive green acrylic and mohair cardigan while performing live on the tv show mtv unplugged in november 1993 with his band nirvana he played a largely acoustic set of his favorite songs and cover songs

the cardigan was made by the maker manhattan it has reportedly never been washed since cobain last wore it and has a hole in it from a cigarette burn the cardigan was previously bought in 2015 by a buyer who wished to remain anonymous but has since spoken about his purchase the owner described the responsibility he felt in owning such a famous piece of rock and roll history he told reporters i thought oh now im also going to be responsible for this it was kind of like when my children were born years ago i was so happy to see them but then i was like oh no for those who cannot afford auctions mr cobains daughter has started a fashion collection called kurt was here.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1910/191030-kurt-cobain.html>

A cardigan that was worn by the singer Kurt Cobain during a live appearance on MTV has broken the record for the most expensive cardigan ever sold at auction. An anonymous buyer forked out an astonishing \$334,000 for the piece of apparel. The cardigan was part of a two-day sale of rock memorabilia at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York. It attracted a lot of attention pre-auction when the auction house described it as being "one of the most famous sweaters in music history". Cobain wore the olive green acrylic and mohair cardigan while performing live on the TV show MTV Unplugged in November 1993 with his band Nirvana. He played a largely acoustic set of his favorite songs and cover songs. The cardigan was made by the maker Manhattan. It has reportedly never been washed since Cobain last wore it and has a hole in it from a cigarette burn. The cardigan was previously bought in 2015 by a buyer who wished to remain anonymous but has since spoken about his purchase. The owner described the responsibility he felt in owning such a famous piece of rock and roll history. He told reporters: "I thought, 'Oh, now I'm also going to be responsible for this.' It was kind of like when my children were born years ago - I was so happy to see them, but then I was like, 'Oh no.'" For those who cannot afford auctions, Mr Cobain's daughter has started a fashion collection called Kurt Was Here.







# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. CARDIGANS:** Make a poster about cardigans. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. AUCTIONS:** Write a magazine article about auctioning the possessions of famous people who have died. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on cardigans. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on the usefulness of cardigans. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e    2. c    3. b    4. f    5. a    6. g    7. d  
8. n    9. h    10. k    11. m    12. i    13. l    14. j

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- a F    b F    c T    d F    e F    f T    g T    h F

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. forked out  | a. paid         |
| 2. apparel     | b. clothing     |
| 3. attracted   | c. drew         |
| 4. live        | d. in person    |
| 5. largely     | e. mainly       |
| 6. maker       | f. manufacturer |
| 7. remain      | g. stay         |
| 8. owning      | h. possessing   |
| 9. afford      | i. pay for      |
| 10. collection | j. line         |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. MTV
2. No one knows. He/She is anonymous
3. Rock memorabilia
4. Olive green
5. Cover songs
6. Manhattan
7. A cigarette
8. 2015
9. Responsibility
10. Kurt Was Here

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.20)

1. Broken the record for the most expensive cardigan.
2. An anonymous buyer forked out an astonishing \$334,000.
3. It attracted a lot of attention pre-auction.
4. While performing live on the TV show MTV.
5. A largely acoustic set of his favorite songs.
6. It has a hole from a cigarette burn.
7. A buyer who wished to remain anonymous.
8. The owner described the responsibility he felt.
9. When my children were born years ago.
10. Cobain's daughter has started a fashion collection.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. a    2. c    3. b    4. d    5. a    6. d    7. b    8. d    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)