

## Fashion revolutionaries: Katharine Hamnett

Have you heard of British fashion designer Katharine Hamnett? Watch her talking about sustainable fashion in this video.

### Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

### Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

#### Vocabulary

1. ..... to campaign
2. ..... to be on a roll
3. ..... to cut to the kill
4. ..... raw materials
5. ..... an impact
6. ..... organic
7. ..... sustainable
8. ..... to prove

#### Definition

- a. grown or produced without using chemicals or anything artificial
- b. the basic resources a produce is made from
- c. to show that something is true or real
- d. a powerful effect that something has on a situation
- e. causing little or no damage to the environment
- f. to talk about the most important points of a subject, without wasting time
- g. to organise activities to achieve a social or political goal
- h. to be doing something continuously and well

### Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	<b>Answer</b>	
1. Katharine Hamnett started campaigning on sustainability recently.	True	False
2. Her business was doing badly in the 1980s.	True	False
3. She discovered that the raw materials she was using were bad for the environment.	True	False
4. At that time, many fashion designers preferred organic cotton.	True	False
5. She puts important messages on the T-shirts she designs.	True	False
6. She successfully found a material to use instead of fur.	True	False

**Task 2**

Complete the sentences from the video.

campaigning	Clothes	fashion designer	impact
prove	raw material	recycled	sustainable

1. My name's Katharine Hamnett. I'm a .....
2. I've been ..... on sustainability for the last 30 years.
3. Every single ..... was having a horrendous .....  
on the environment.
4. .... have got to be desirable. They can't just be .....
5. This coat is ..... polyester.
6. I think it's important to actually ..... that it can be done.

**Discussion**

Katharine Hamnett says clothes must be both desirable and sustainable. What do you think?  
What is important for you when you buy clothes?

## Transcript

My name's Katharine Hamnett. I'm a fashion designer and I've been campaigning on sustainability for the last 30 years.

In the 1980s we were on a complete roll. We did some research and I thought, 'Ah, it's gonna be fine.' Cut to the kill. Every single raw material was having a horrendous impact on the environment. People I've bought hundreds of thousands of metres of cotton from were saying, 'Why should we make it organic cotton since you're the only one asking for it?'

'Choose life' – that was our first T-shirt. 'Save the future', 'Save the bees'.

Clothing purchasing is driven by desire. You know, they've got to be desirable. They can't just be sustainable. This coat is recycled polyester. Padded silk, because I was trying to find an alternative to fur, and it actually works.

I think it's important, you know, as well as campaigning, to actually prove that it can be done.

## Answers

### Preparation task

1. g
2. h
3. f
4. b
5. d
6. a
7. e
8. c

### Task 1

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True

### Task 2

1. fashion designer
2. campaigning
3. raw material | impact
4. Clothes | sustainable
5. recycled
6. prove