

## THEME 10 SHOPPING READING SKILL (COUNT ME IN)

### A. Read the text on clothing in different cultures and answer the questions.

#### TRADITIONAL CLOTHING AROUND THE WORLD

Each country, from Germany to China, from the Netherlands to Egypt, has its own culture and traditional clothing that deserve respect. Culture influences what people wear a lot. In some countries, national dresses are regarded as unofficial uniforms to be worn only on ceremonial occasions while in some societies, wearing traditional clothing is compulsory for both men and women in everyday life. Let's take a look at the world's most traditional costumes.

**India :** 'Dhoti' and 'kurta' are the most important traditional clothing items for Indian men. 'Dhoti' is a piece of cloth. It is tied around the waist and legs. 'Kurta' is a long coat. It is buttoned up to the collar and falls below the knee. Women wear a pair of light, loose trousers and a tunic called 'salwar kameez'. This traditional clothing item is also known as Punjabi suit. Besides, western clothes are very common in India.

**Brazil :** There are many varieties of Brazilian clothing from region to region. People in southern Brazil, wear baggy trousers, ponchos, straw hats and leather boots. Coats, hats and leather caps are worn by the people in the Northeast region. During the carnival, bright colored costumes are popular for women.

**Mexico :** There are various traditional clothing items in Mexico depending on gender, ethnic group and social status. Traditionally, women wear a 'huipil' , a richly embroidered cotton blouse, and a 'rebozo' , a long scarf covering the head and the shoulders. Men's clothing items are trousers and shirts. 'Sombrero' is a kind of hat. It is also worn by Mexican men.

**Japan :** Kimono is one of the most popular garments of traditional Japanese clothing. It is worn by both men and women. Men's kimonos are much simpler than women's and are usually black or brown. Obi is a sash tied on the back and under the chest. Kimono and obi are made up of silk and satin weaves by hand. Japanese people decide on the design of their kimonos according to the season. For instance, a pattern with cherry blossoms should be worn in spring; watery designs are common during the summer and red leaf is popular in autumn. A pattern with bamboo and pine trees is suitable for winter. Despite old kimonos are valuable, they are often recycled for making handbags or small kimono accessories.

**United States of America :** Although it's hard to specify traditional American clothing, it's significantly represented by cowboy hats and blue jeans. Some other essential items include t-shirts, baseball caps, shorts, cowboy boots and sneakers. The USA has traditionally been the 'land of opportunity'. People usually go there to earn their lives through hard work such as farming, construction work or working in the service of the community. So, they have always needed practical clothes in everyday life. The fashion of the USA has been adopted in most parts of the world.

**Spain :** Traditional Spanish clothing is inspired by Roman, Spanish, Arab and Latin cultures. The major traditional clothing items of Spain are garments like 'mantilla', a headscarf made of lace for covering the head and shoulder, and 'traje corto', a short jacket with high waist bands. Flamenco dancers wear a dress called 'traje de flamenca'. It is a long dress with ruffles in the skirt and is generally brightly colored.

1. What are the most significant clothing items of the USA?
2. What does the variation in traditional Mexican clothing depend on?
3. How can you describe 'dhoti' and 'kurta' and 'salwar kameez'?
4. What is the difference between men's and women's kimonos?
5. How are the kimono patterns related to seasons?
6. Which cultures inspire the traditional Spanish clothing?