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Gap Inc. launches sweatshop enquiry

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30th October, 2007

THE ARTICLE

Gap Inc. launches sweatshop enquiry

A major international clothing chain has launched an enquiry into claims that its suppliers are using child labour. Gap Inc, which sells its branded clothes worldwide, is meeting with suppliers to investigate allegations of children being used in sweatshops. The company has already terminated a contract with one Indian factory. Gap president Marka Hansen told reporters: "It's deeply, deeply disturbing to all of us...I feel violated and I feel very upset and angry with...the subcontractor who made this very, very, very unwise decision." Gap said it will not sell the garments made in this factory in its stores. There are fears that some of the abused children are as young as ten. Reports are that the children work 16 hours a day, often without pay. Factory bosses supposedly beat them with rubber pipes and put oily cloths in their mouths when they cry.

The chain has 3,000 shops across the globe and is keen to keep its image clean. Senior executive Dan Henkle said: "Our team in India is conducting a full investigation and we have already made sure the products will never be sold. Although violations of our strict prohibition on child labour are extremely rare, we are calling for an urgent meeting with all suppliers in this region to reinforce this policy." Hansen, meanwhile, wanted the world to know she was taking the matter seriously. She told CNN: "Gap has a history of addressing challenges like this head-on, and our approach to this situation will be no exception." She added: "In 2006, Gap ceased business with 23 factories due to [Code of Vendor Conduct] violations. We have 90 people located around the world whose job is to ensure compliance with our code."

WARM-UPS

1. CLOTHES STORES: Walk around the class and talk to other students about international clothes shops. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

clothing / enquiries / sweatshops / anger / unwise decisions / child abuse / keeping images clean / investigations / CNN / addressing challenges / codes

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

3. CHILDHOOD: Talk about the different childhoods below with your partner(s). What is an average day for them? Do we need to help these children? Change partners and share your ideas:

- Jacob, 12, child soldier in West Africa
- Kylie, 13, newspaper delivery girl, England
- Lee, 14, miner in China
- Sanjay, 10, sweatshop worker in India
- Khadija, 12, carpet weaver in Morocco
- Eva, 13, coffee picker in Brazil

4. CHILD-FRIENDLY: Are these companies good for kids? Assess them with your partner(s). 10 = great for kids, 0 = not so good for children. Change partners and explain your scores.

_____ Gap

_____ Disney

_____ Nike

_____ British-American Tobacco

_____ Sony

_____ Coca Cola

_____ McDonalds

_____ LLC (Makes Colt handguns)

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

6. QUICK DEBATE: Students A think it's OK for children to work from the age of 13. Students B think children should not be able to work until they're 18. Debate this with your partners. Change partners often.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Gap clothing company will look into allegations of child abuse. T / F
- b. The company has fired one of its suppliers in India. T / F
- c. It is too late for Gap to stop selling clothes made by the supplier. T / F
- d. It is reported that kids as young as 16 are working 10-hour days. T / F
- e. Gap has difficulty keeping its 3,000 global stores clean and tidy. T / F
- f. It is very unusual for child abuse to occur among Gap's suppliers. T / F
- g. Gap finds addressing history to be very challenging. T / F
- h. Gap employs 90 people worldwide to ensure its standards are met. T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. launched | a. ended |
| 2. allegations | b. adherence to |
| 3. terminated | c. degraded |
| 4. violated | d. dealing with |
| 5. supposedly | e. eager |
| 6. keen | f. ban |
| 7. prohibition | g. claims |
| 8. reinforce | h. allegedly |
| 9. addressing | i. strengthen |
| 10. compliance | j. started |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. launched an enquiry into | a. the children work 16 hours a day |
| 2. investigate allegations of children | b. on child labour are extremely rare |
| 3. terminated a | c. claims that its suppliers... |
| 4. it will not sell the | d. being used in sweatshops |
| 5. Reports are that | e. keep its image clean |
| 6. ... is keen to | f. compliance with our code |
| 7. violations of our strict prohibition | g. head-on |
| 8. reinforce this | h. contract with one Indian factory |
| 9. addressing challenges like this | i. garments made in this factory |
| 10. ensure | j. policy |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Gap Inc. launches sweatshop enquiry

A major international clothing _____ has launched an enquiry into claims that its suppliers are using child labour. Gap Inc, which sells its _____ clothes worldwide, is meeting with suppliers to investigate allegations of children being used in sweatshops. The company has already terminated a _____ with one Indian factory. Gap president Marka Hansen told reporters: "It's deeply, deeply _____ to all of us...I feel violated and I feel very upset and angry with...the subcontractor who made this very, very, very _____ decision." Gap said it will not sell the garments made in this factory in its stores. There are _____ that some of the abused children are as young as ten. Reports are that the children work 16 hours a day, often without pay. Factory bosses supposedly _____ them with rubber pipes and put oily cloths in their mouths when they _____.

The chain has 3,000 shops across the globe and is _____ to keep its image clean. Senior executive Dan Henkle said: "Our team in India is conducting a _____ investigation and we have already made sure the products will never be sold. Although violations of our _____ prohibition on child labour are extremely rare, we are calling for an _____ meeting with all suppliers in this region to _____ this policy." Hansen, meanwhile, wanted the world to know she was _____ the matter seriously. She told CNN: "Gap has a history of addressing challenges like this _____, and our approach to this situation will be no exception." She added: "In 2006, Gap ceased business with 23 factories due to [Code of Vendor Conduct] violations. We have 90 people located around the world whose job is to _____ compliance with our code."

fears
branded
contract
chain
cry
unwise
beat
disturbing
urgent
keen
ensure
strict
head-on
taking
reinforce
full

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Gap Inc. launches sweatshop enquiry

A major international clothing chain has _____ claims that its suppliers are using child labour. Gap Inc, which sells its branded clothes worldwide, is _____ investigate allegations of children being used in sweatshops. The company has already terminated _____ Indian factory. Gap president Marka Hansen told reporters: "It's deeply, deeply disturbing to all of us...I feel violated and I feel very upset and angry with..._____ this very, very, very unwise decision." Gap said it will not sell the garments made in this factory in its stores. There are _____ children are as young as ten. Reports are that the children work 16 hours a day, often without pay. Factory _____ with rubber pipes and put oily cloths in their mouths when they cry.

The chain has 3,000 shops across the globe _____ image clean. Senior executive Dan Henkle said: "Our team in India is _____ and we have already made sure the products will never be sold. Although _____ prohibition on child labour are extremely rare, we are calling for an urgent meeting with all suppliers in this region _____." Hansen, meanwhile, wanted the world to know she was taking the matter seriously. She told CNN: "Gap has a history of addressing _____, and our approach to this situation will be no exception." She added: "In 2006, Gap ceased business with 23 factories due to [Code of Vendor Conduct] violations. We have 90 people located around the world whose job is to _____ code."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'sweat' and 'shop'.

sweat	shop
--------------	-------------

- 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 exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• chain• branded• contract• unwise• fears• pipes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• globe• conducting• strict• reinforce• head-on• ensure
---	--

STUDENT SWEATSHOP SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about sweatshops 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	STUDENT 2	STUDENT 3
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.

DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What do you know about sweatshops?
- c) Do you know of any famous cases where multi-national companies bought products from sweatshops?
- d) What do you think of Gap's actions in launching an enquiry?
- e) Do you think multi-national companies turn a blind eye to child labour and child abuse until it hits the headlines?
- f) How can companies like Gap ensure its suppliers do not employ or abuse children?
- g) What do you think the Indian authorities should do to the sweatshop owner who employed children?
- h) Do you think child labour will ever disappear?
- i) Do children in your country work from a young age?



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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Would you buy very cheap clothes if you knew child labour was used in making them?
- c) How can you be sure that child labour was not used in the manufacture of the clothes you buy?
- d) What do you think Gap will do with the clothes it says it will not sell?
- e) Do you think governments around the world do enough to protect children from abuse?
- f) Have you ever addressed a challenge head-on?
- g) Would you like to work for Gap and make sure factories are not employing children?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the sweatshop owner?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

LANGUAGE

CORRECT WORD: Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Gap Inc. launches sweatshop enquiry

A major international clothing chain has (1) _____ an enquiry into claims that its suppliers are using child labour. Gap Inc, which sells its (2) _____ clothes worldwide, is meeting with suppliers to investigate allegations of children being used in sweatshops. The company has already terminated a contract (3) _____ one Indian factory. Gap president Marka Hansen told reporters: "It's deeply, (4) _____ disturbing to all of us...I feel violated and I feel very upset and angry with...the subcontractor who made this very, very, very unwise decision." Gap said it will not sell the garments made in this factory in its stores. There are fears that some of the (5) _____ children are as young as ten. Reports are that the children work 16 hours a day, often without pay. Factory bosses (6) _____ beat them with rubber pipes and put oily cloths in their mouths when they cry.

The chain has 3,000 shops across the globe and is keen (7) _____ keep its image clean. Senior executive Dan Henkle said: "Our team in India is conducting a (8) _____ investigation and we have already made sure the products will never be sold. Although violations of our strict prohibition on child labour are extremely (9) _____, we are calling for an urgent meeting with all suppliers in this region to reinforce this policy." Hansen, meanwhile, wanted the world to know she was (10) _____ the matter seriously. She told CNN: "Gap has a history of addressing challenges like this (11) _____ -on, and our approach to this situation will be no exception." She added: "In 2006, Gap ceased business with 23 factories due to [Code of Vendor Conduct] violations. We have 90 people located around the world (12) _____ job is to ensure compliance with our code."

1. (a) luncheoned (b) lynched (c) lunched (d) launched
2. (a) brands (b) bland (c) branded (d) branding
3. (a) with (b) by (c) of (d) around
4. (a) deep (b) deeply (c) depth (d) deeper
5. (a) abused (b) abusive (c) abuser (d) abusing
6. (a) supposes (b) supposing (c) suppose (d) supposedly
7. (a) on (b) to (c) for (d) with
8. (a) fell (b) fall (c) full (d) fill
9. (a) rare (b) rarely (c) rarer (d) rarest
10. (a) stalking (b) stalking (c) staking (d) taking
11. (a) hands (b) eye (c) head (d) mind
12. (a) who's (b) whose (c) who (d) who is

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 more information about sweatshops. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. CHILD LABOUR: Make a poster about child labour. Report on the countries where children work and the jobs they do. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all include similar things?

4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the life of a 10-year-old child who has to work 16 hours a day in a sweatshop. Include imaginary interviews with the child, the sweatshop boss and the CEO of the multinational company that buys clothes from the sweatshop.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the boss of the sweatshop. Ask him/her three questions about child labour. Give him/her three pieces of advice on what he/she should do in the future. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. launched | a. started |
| 2. allegations | b. claims |
| 3. terminated | c. ended |
| 4. violated | d. degraded |
| 5. supposedly | e. allegedly |
| 6. keen | f. eager |
| 7. prohibition | g. ban |
| 8. reinforce | h. strengthen |
| 9. addressing | i. dealing with |
| 10. compliance | j. adherence to |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. launched an enquiry into | a. claims that its suppliers... |
| 2. investigate allegations of children | b. being used in sweatshops |
| 3. terminated a | c. contract with one Indian factory |
| 4. it will not sell the | d. garments made in this factory |
| 5. Reports are that | e. the children work 16 hours a day |
| 6. ... is keen to | f. keep its image clean |
| 7. violations of our strict prohibition | g. on child labour are extremely rare |
| 8. reinforce this | h. policy |
| 9. addressing challenges like this | i. head-on |
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GAP FILL:

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A major international clothing **chain** has launched an enquiry into claims that its suppliers are using child labour. Gap Inc, which sells its **branded** clothes worldwide, is meeting with suppliers to investigate allegations of children being used in sweatshops. The company has already terminated a **contract** with one Indian factory. Gap president Marka Hansen told reporters: "It's deeply, deeply **disturbing** to all of us...I feel violated and I feel very upset and angry with...the subcontractor who made this very, very, very **unwise** decision." Gap said it will not sell the garments made in this factory in its stores. There are **fears** that some of the abused children are as young as ten. Reports are that the children work 16 hours a day, often without pay. Factory bosses supposedly **beat** them with rubber pipes and put oily cloths in their mouths when they **cry**.

The chain has 3,000 shops across the globe and is **keen** to keep its image clean. Senior executive Dan Henkle said: "Our team in India is conducting a **full** investigation and we have already made sure the products will never be sold. Although violations of our **strict** prohibition on child labour are extremely rare, we are calling for an **urgent** meeting with all suppliers in this region to **reinforce** this policy." Hansen, meanwhile, wanted the world to know she was **taking** the matter seriously. She told CNN: "Gap has a history of addressing challenges like this **head-on**, and our approach to this situation will be no exception." She added: "In 2006, Gap ceased business with 23 factories due to [Code of Vendor Conduct] violations. We have 90 people located around the world whose job is to **ensure** compliance with our code."

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d 2 - c 3 - a 4 - b 5 - a 6 - d 7 - b 8 - c 9 - a 10 - d 11 - c 12 - b