

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

30th October, 2019



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: [itv.com](http://itv.com) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [nme.com](http://nme.com)

### Writing

People should not spend huge amounts of money on used clothes. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

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

### True / False

- 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

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

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

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of auctions?
- b) What do you know about Kurt Cobain?
- c) Would you buy the clothes of a famous person?
- d) Are cardigans only for old people?
- e) Do cardigans exist in every culture?
- f) What rock and roll memorabilia would you like to buy?
- g) Which memorabilia is better - movie or rock 'n' roll?
- h) Why do people spend lots of money on memorabilia?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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              |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of cardigans?
- What kinds of cardigans would you wear?
- Why might someone feel responsible for owning the cardigan?
- Would you be happy to receive a cardigan as a gift?
- What is your favorite item of clothing?
- What clothes would you design in your own fashion collection?
- What questions would you like to ask the buyer?

## Spelling

- during a live cpaaaernep on MTV
- an tiosnshniga \$334,000
- the piece of epaalpr
- a two-day sale of rock elroaimamib
- green icclary and mohair cardigan
- He played a largely taiccsou set
- It has yelerorptd never been washed
- a buyer who wished to remain ynnmuoos
- spoken about his ecrphusa
- the iypliostersnbi he felt
- For those who cannot afford tscnoiau
- started a fashion lecciltoon

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. j	3. f	4. h	5. a
6. c	7. i	8. d	9. b	10. g

## Role Play

### 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.

## Speaking – Music

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

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

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.