

B2–C1 Worksheet: Right to Repair and the Return of Fixing Things

Article

When a laptop screen cracks or a washing machine decides to pack in, plenty of people still treat the problem as disposable and move on. Yet repair cafés are gaining traction, and tool libraries are helping neighbours borrow what they need. Instead of ordering a replacement, more consumers are choosing to roll up their sleeves and try a fix without calling an expensive technician, especially when products seem to wear out far sooner than they should.

The right to repair movement argues that ownership should come with real options. Campaigners say some brands clamp down on independent repairs, withhold parts, or make manuals hard to find. Supporters want guidance that is accessible and components that can be bought at a fair price to level the playing field. Manufacturers push back, warning that poor repairs could be dangerous or invalidate warranties, but the demand for choice has begun to strike a chord with frustrated customers.

For many people, repair is not only practical but also emotional. When you keep an eye on a problem, work out what went wrong, and finally get it working, you do not just save money - you end up feeling capable. The process can slow down the impulse to replace everything, and it challenges the idea that convenience matters more than durability. Even if a repair fails, learning not to give up too quickly can be surprisingly meaningful.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. Repair cafés and tool libraries are making it easier for people to attempt repairs.
2. The article claims manufacturers routinely provide spare parts and clear manuals.
3. Supporters argue that parts and guidance should be easier to access.
4. Some companies warn that amateur repairs might create safety problems or void warranties.
5. The article says the right to repair is only about saving money.
6. The writer suggests repairing can make people feel more capable.
7. According to the article, convenience should always matter more than durability.
8. The article suggests repairing can reduce the urge to replace things immediately.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. pack in	A. resist or oppose something
2. gaining traction	B. make a situation fairer for everyone
3. roll up their sleeves	C. watch something carefully
4. wear out	D. finally be in a particular situation
5. clamp down on	E. prepare to work hard
6. level the playing field	F. take firm action to stop something
7. push back	G. feel emotionally familiar or relevant
8. strike a chord	H. becoming more popular or accepted
9. keep an eye on	I. stop working suddenly
10. end up	J. be damaged by use over time

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. disposable	A. urge
2. traction	B. significant
3. independent	C. single-use
4. withhold	D. momentum
5. accessible	E. self-reliant
6. components	F. void
7. invalidate	G. sturdiness
8. impulse	H. easy to access
9. durability	I. parts
10. meaningful	J. refuse

Discussion Questions

Student A

Have you ever tried to fix something after it packed in? What did you do?
Do you usually give up quickly, or do you roll up your sleeves and try?
Would you visit a repair café if it was nearby? Why?
What items in your home wear out the fastest?
Do you have a tool kit, or would you borrow tools from a library?
What is one repair skill you would like to learn this year?
How do you feel when you end up solving a practical problem yourself?
Do you enjoy slowing down and doing things more carefully?

Student B

Should governments clamp down on companies that make repairs difficult? Why or why not?
Is it fair to level the playing field between manufacturers and independent repair shops?
When companies push back on right to repair, what do you think they are protecting?
Should safety concerns ever invalidate a consumer's right to repair?
Does repair culture strike a chord with you, or do you prefer convenience? Explain.
How might repair habits change spending and waste over a decade?
What responsibilities should consumers have if repairs go wrong?
Do you think durability should be treated as a basic standard in product design?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=T, 2=F, 3=T, 4=T, 5=F, 6=T, 7=F, 8=T

Phrase Match: 1=I, 2=H, 3=E, 4=J, 5=F, 6=B, 7=A, 8=G, 9=C, 10=D

Synonym Match: 1=C, 2=D, 3=E, 4=J, 5=H, 6=I, 7=F, 8=A, 9=G, 10=B