

# LIVIN' LA VIDA BROKA



Feeling the pinch cash-wise? Need a few more pounds in your purse? Join the club! In this new weekly page we'll be giving you ideas to raise and save cash so that austerity Britain doesn't have to bite too hard

**T**his week we're helping magazine intern Sophie Tighe (pictured), 25, from London, who's planning a summer holiday her with university pals.

Sophie needs to scrape some spending money together fast. 'I've tried saving but there's nothing left after living expenses!' Sophie says.

After raiding her wardrobe, we put unwanted clothes from Topshop, asos.com and Fred Perry on eBay to raise potential online cash. 'Once you've had a couple of goes, it's simple and exciting to see what you make,' adds Sophie.

Here's our expert advice about cashing in on your closet:

### THE CLEVER GIRL'S GUIDE TO USING EBAY

- ▶ Got to [eBay.co.uk](http://eBay.co.uk) and create a seller's account by clicking on the 'sell' tab. Fill in your details and pick a memorable user ID.
- ▶ Enter your credit or debt card details for verification. You won't be charged!
- ▶ Sellers and buyers rate their experience on a user feedback system. As Sophie's a new seller with no feedback, buyers might be reluctant to make purchases. So it's worth Sophie making a couple of small purchases (of other things) to get positive feedback.
- ▶ Take eye-catching photos of your item from different angles. The first photo is free and each additional picture is 12p.
- ▶ Keep your description informative including brand and size, stating any flaws.
- ▶ Entice buyers. For example, say the pink dress is perfect for summer.
- ▶ Choose whether to put your item in the standard auction or 'buy it now' sale.
- ▶ Opt for a low starting price to result in a high final price. If you start under 99p, it's free. Use a reserve price if you don't want to sell too low.

▶ Don't exaggerate postage costs or you'll put buyers off! Check post office fees before you list an item.

▶ Pay a fee to eBay when your item is sold. This is 10 per cent of the final price up to a maximum of £75. If your item doesn't sell, you don't pay.

▶ Set up a PayPal account so you can accept card payments over the internet fast and securely. PayPal will take a fee.

▶ Encourage good feedback by laundering, ironing and packaging your item well and posting promptly.

**TIP**  
Look out for free listings weekends where you don't pay anything to eBay to put items up for sale

**THE AVERAGE WOMAN HAS 12 ITEMS OF CLOTHING WORTH ROUGHLY £289 GATHERING DUST IN THE WARDROBE - IF IT DOESN'T FIT, FLOG IT!**

### Other ways to sell unwanted clothes

Make quick cash by visiting [musicmaggie.com](http://musicmaggie.com). Simply key in brand and garment type to get an offer price. Postage is also free.

**Flog vintage fashion using asos.com marketplace.** There is no listing fee, instead you pay a 10 per cent sales commission.

**Sell second-hand designer clothes at clothesagency.com which charges £1.25 per item for a 28-day listing.** Use Facebook selling groups. Ask friends to invite you to their local group and sell stuff for free. Buyers should live near you, so you can drop items round.

*'It was easy to make cash. I've already made over £50 on eBay!'*

