

## Clothes and fashion

1 Look at these lists of clothes. Answer the questions.

a. Which one is likely to cost the least?

a party frock	an evening dress	a wedding dress
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b. Which one wouldn't you wear at a posh dinner?

a tuxedo	a dinner jacket	a blazer	a leather jacket
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c. Which would you take with you on a summer evening, in case it gets cold?

a cardigan	a polo-neck jumper	a sweater	a pullover
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d. Which would a businesswoman most likely wear?

a mini skirt	a kilt	a tutu	a pleated skirt
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e. Which would a boy wear in bed?

a nighty	pyjamas	a nightgown
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f. Which might you wear in a gym?

flares	a pair of slacks	designer jeans	tracksuit bottoms
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g. Which would you be unlikely to put on as soon as you get up?

a bath robe	a dressing gown	a cloak	underwear
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2 Match the list of words to the correct heading in the middle.

heel toe polish ear-rings handbag bra knickers tights cuff crease sleeve pocket buttonhole belt buckle turn-ups	shirt trousers jacket accessories lingerie shoes	sole laces silk scarf gloves hat stockings suspender belt collar buttons cuff-links lapel lining seam zip flares braces
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3 Which of the words in the list below would you use to describe the dress sense of the people in the descriptions in a. to e.?

fashionable	smart	casual	over-dressed	trendy
flamboyant	stylish	elegant	scruffy	

- a. Claire is eighteen. She lives to shop. She spends ages going round shops buying clothes – not just high street shops, but second hand shops too. She likes people to notice what she’s wearing at parties and clubs, no matter whether she’s wearing the latest fashion or something she’s created herself.
- b. As she walked down the stairs in the Yves St Laurent evening dress, everybody turned to look at her. She looked like a princess.
- c. Working in the City, as I do, it is important to make the right impression on clients. I buy my suits from Saville Row and my ties are specially imported from Italy.
- d. Fifi la Roux wore the most outrageous costume you have ever seen. Gold-coloured high-heeled boots, silver flares and a tuxedo covered in glitter. It was an amazing sight, but then it was his fiftieth birthday!
- e. At weekends, I tend to wear an old t-shirt and a pair of baggy jeans with holes in them.

Write a short description of what you tend to wear most often. Read it out to your partner – how would they describe your dress sense?

- 4 There are many idioms in English connected to clothes. Match the idioms in italics with their definitions below.
- a. If we are going to finish all these dishes, we are going to have to *roll up our sleeves* and get going.
  - b. If you don't *button your lip* you're going to get in trouble.
  - c. After living on the street for six months, he looked very *down at heel*.
  - d. He's amazing. He made that speech *off the cuff* – no notes or anything!
  - e. John was drunk and kept saying stupid things at the dinner table. I could see his wife was getting very *hot under the collar*. I thought she was going to shout at him.
  - f. Sally refuses to *toe the line*. Every time I tell her to do something, she just walks off.
  - g. Don't worry. It'll be OK. *Every cloud has a silver lining*.

**Definitions**

Shut up	In poor condition
Angry	Work hard
Obey/do what you are told to do	Without preparation
Even when things are bad, something good will happen	

- 5 Complete the text with the words below in the correct tense.

dye	snap	darn	fray
wear out	shrink	tear	

My washing machine has broken, so my brother did my washing for me last week. It was a nightmare. He \_\_\_\_\_ my favourite pullover. It's now two sizes too small. He \_\_\_\_\_ all my white shirts blue. The sleeve of my jacket is \_\_\_\_\_ – I'll have to sew it up. There are holes in all my socks – I'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ them. The collars and cuffs of my best shirt are \_\_\_\_\_ at the edges – there are threads of cotton hanging from them. And the zip on my new jeans has \_\_\_\_\_. Now that my old jeans have \_\_\_\_\_ too, and I've had to throw them away, I've got no trousers to wear. I'm going to kill my brother when I see him!

- 6 Prepare to discuss these questions.
- a. Do you prefer to dress up or dress down?
  - b. What sort of clothes are you most comfortable in?
  - c. What colours and styles suit you?
  - d. Are you a fashion victim?
  - e. What's the most fashionable item of clothing that you possess?

Interview your partner.

Using the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD rom

## Clothes and fashion Dictionary Quiz

- 1 What's the difference between a *clothes line* and a *clothes horse*?
- 2 What do you use a *clothes peg* for?
- 3 What does a *plain clothes* policeman not wear?
- 4 What do you put in a *clothes basket*?
- 5 How is *clothing* different from *clothes*?
- 6 If you are a *fashion victim*, is it a good thing or a bad thing?
- 7 If you repeat something *parrot-fashion*, what does it mean?
- 8 What does a *fashion house* do?
- 9 What's the opposite of *come into fashion*?
- 10 What does *after a fashion* mean?
- 11 What does the verb *to fashion* mean?