# 6a  Dress codes

☐ After he had concluded his business with the client, he mentioned the man in the lift.

☐ As he was travelling up in the lift he noticed that the other occupant was a man whose appearance left a lot to be desired.

☐ From that day on IBM had one of the strictest dress codes in American corporate life: dark suit, black shoes, black socks, white shirt, sober ties.

☐ He came to service the computer.'

☐ 'He's not one of my employees: he's one of your engineers.

☐ His clothes were hideous: a collection of violent colours and busy patterns.

☐ 'I'm surprised you let your employees come to work dressed like that.'

☐ 'I know the man,' he said.

☐ Managers who had been seen wearing a coloured shirt would sometimes come to work to find half a dozen brand new white shirts sitting on the desk, still wrapped in cellophane.

☐ The client smiled.

☐ There would be no accompanying note; none was necessary.

☐ It is said that the president of IBM once went to visit a client.

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After he had concluded his business with the client, he mentioned the man in the lift. 'I'm surprised you let your employees come to work dressed like that.' The client smiled. 'I know the man,' he said, 'He's not one of my employees: he's one of your engineers. He came to service the computer.'

From that day on IBM had one of the strictest dress codes in American corporate life: dark suit, black shoes, black socks, white shirt, sober ties. Managers who had been seen wearing a coloured shirt would sometimes come to work to find half a dozen brand new white shirts sitting on the desk, still wrapped in cellophane. There would be no accompanying note; none was necessary. ■

# *Dress codes* **Worksheet** 6a

## ACTIVITY
Groupwork: jigsaw reading, speaking

## AIM
To put a set of sentences in order so as to make a story, and to then discuss dress codes at work.

## GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS
Narrating
Past tense

## VOCABULARY
*dress code, corporate life, to conclude your business with someone*

## PREPARATION
Decide how many students you want in each group, from three to twelve. Make one copy of the worksheet for each group and cut it up as indicated.

## TIME
15-25 minutes

## PROCEDURE
1   Ask the students how people usually dress in their company/ies. What would happen if someone came, for example, in jeans and a polo shirt? Is there a written dress code?

2   Tell the students they are going to do a speaking activity about clothes at work.

3   Divide the class into groups of up to 12 students.

4   Give out the strips with the sentences from the story: an equal number of strips to each group member.

5   Write these rules on the board:
*Put the 12 sentences in order to make a story.*
*Complete the task by speaking English.*
*Do not show the sentences to each other: read them out.*

6   Ask the students to begin.

7   When they have finished, check their work.

8   Ask what they think are the advantages and disadvantages of strict written dress codes from the point of view of the company and the employee.

## FOLLOW-UP 1
Students write the story, or a similar one, in their own words.

## FOLLOW-UP 2
Students write a dress code for their company, or the dress code they would have if they had their own company.