

Clothes and fashion

Upper-intermediate

1 Multiple choice

Look at these lists of clothes. Answer the questions:

1 Which one is likely to cost the least?

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

a tuxedo	a dinner jacket	a blazer	a leather jacket
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3 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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4 Which would a business woman be most likely to wear?

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

a nightie	pyjamas	a nightgown
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6 Which might you wear in a gym?

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

a bath robe	a dressing gown	a raincoat	underwear
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2 Match the words

Match the list of words in columns A and C to the correct heading in column B, as shown in the example:

A	B	C
heel		sole
toe		laces
polish	shirt	silk scarf
earrings	trousers	gloves
handbag		hat
bra	jacket	stockings
knickers		suspender belt
tights	accessories	collar
cuff		buttons
crease	lingerie	cufflinks
sleeve		lapel
pocket	shoes	lining
buttonhole		seam
belt		zip
buckle		flares
turn-ups		braces

3 Read and match

Which of the words in the list below would you use to describe the dress sense of the people described in a – e:

fashionable	smart	casual	over-dressed	flamboyant
trendy	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.

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- 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 Clothes and idioms

There are many idioms in English connected to clothes. Match the idioms in italics with their definitions from the table 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 into 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 as you are told	without preparation	look on the bright side	

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5 Fill the gaps

Complete the text with the verbs below, using 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 Interview your partner

Prepare to discuss these questions:

- Do you prefer to dress up or dress down?
- What sort of clothes do you feel most comfortable wearing?
- What colours and styles suit you?
- Are you a fashion victim?
- What's the most fashionable item of clothing that you possess?

Interview your partner, using the same questions.

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7 Clothes and fashion dictionary quiz

Try the quiz. If you have the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD-ROM try you can find all the answers by finding the key words *clothes and fashion*, and following the various links.

- 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?

Teacher's notes - Clothes and fashion (Upper-intermediate)

1 Put the students in pairs to look at the lists of clothes, and answer the questions.

Answers:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) a party frock | 2) a leather jacket | 3) a sweater or a pullover |
| 4) a pleated skirt | 5) pyjamas | 6) tracksuit bottoms |
| 7) a raincoat | | |

2 Ask the students to match the list of words to the correct heading.

Answers:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| shirt: | cuff, crease, sleeve, pocket, buttonhole, collar, buttons, seam |
| trousers: | crease, turn-ups, lining, seam, zip, flares, pocket |
| jacket: | sleeve, pocket, buttonhole, collar, buttons, lapel, lining, seam |
| accessories: | earrings, handbag, silk scarf, gloves, hat, belt, buckle, cufflinks, braces |
| lingerie: | bra, knickers, stockings, suspender belt, tights |
| shoes: | heel, toe, sole, polish, laces |

3 Ask the students to read the descriptions and match them to the correct words.

Answers:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| a. trendy, fashionable | b. elegant, stylish | c. smart, stylish |
| d. over-dressed, flamboyant | e. casual, scruffy | |

Ask the students to write a short description of what they tend to wear most often. Ask them to read it out to their partner.

4 Ask the students to match the idioms in italics with the definitions.

Answers:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| a. <i>roll up our sleeves</i> | = work hard |
| b. <i>button your lip</i> | = shut up |
| c. <i>down at heel</i> | = in poor condition |

- d. *off the cuff* = without preparation
 e. *hot under the collar* = angry
 f. *toe the line* = obey/do what you are told to do
 g. *every cloud has a silver lining* = look on the bright side

5 Ask the students to complete the text with the words in the correct tense.

Answers:

My washing machine has broken, so my brother did my washing for me last week. It was a nightmare. He shrunk my favourite pullover. It's now two sizes too small. He died all my white shirts blue. The sleeve of my jacket is orn – I'll have to sew it up. There are holes in all my socks – I'll have to darn them. The collars and cuffs of my best shirt are frayed at the edges – there are threads of cotton hanging from them. And the zip on my new jeans has snapped. Now that my old jeans have worn out 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 Give the students a few minutes to prepare to discuss these questions. Then ask them to interview their partner.

7 If your students have access to the Macmillan English Advanced Learner's Dictionary and CD-ROM, set them the following quiz. They can find all the answers by finding the key words *clothes* and *fashion*, and following the various links. The quiz can also be done without the dictionary.

Answers:

- 1 What's the difference between a *clothes line* and a *clothes horse*?
Clothes line: a rope on which you hang wet clothes so that they can dry, usually outside your house. Clothes horse: a frame of plastic or wooden bars used for hanging wet clothes inside the house.
- 2 What do you use a *clothes peg* for?
Fastening wet clothes onto a clothes line.
- 3 What does a *plain clothes* policeman not wear?
A uniform
- 4 What do you put in a *clothes basket*?
Clothes that need to be washed or have been washed.
- 5 How is *clothing* different from *clothes*?
Clothing: clothes in general. Clothes: shirts, dresses, trousers etc
- 6 If you are a *fashion victim*, is it a good thing or a bad thing?
A bad thing
- 7 If you repeat something *parrot-fashion*, what does it mean?
Copying or repeating what someone says without thinking about it or understanding it properly.
- 8 What does a *fashion house* do?
Designs new styles of expensive clothes.
- 9 What's the opposite of *come into fashion*?
Go out of fashion.
- 10 What does *after a fashion* mean?
Not very well or effectively
- 11 What does the verb *to fashion* mean?
To make something, often using a lot of skill or care.