



BUSINESS ATTIRE

“Over the years I have learned that what is important in a dress is the woman who is wearing it.”

Yves Saint Laurent (1936 – 2008), French fashion designer

1. Business Attire Discussion

1. How important is it to look good at work?
2. What do you consider to be appropriate attire at work?
3. How do you usually dress for work?
4. What would you prefer to wear to work?
5. Why do we wear business clothes?
6. When is it most important to wear smart business clothes?
7. Do you find you act differently or work differently depending on the clothes you are wearing?
8. Are there any countries in which people dress differently at work than in your country?

2. Business Attire Vocabulary

- **dress code** (noun) – *rules for what clothes have to be worn, or cannot be worn.*
- **casual** (adjective) – *informal, relaxed or comfortable clothes suitable for everyday wear.*
- **business casual** (adjective) – *casual clothes that contain elements of formal clothes suitable for office wear.*
- **dress-down/casual Friday** (noun) – *a day when a company's dress code is relaxed and casual clothes are permitted to be worn at work.*
- **high-heels** (noun) – *women's shoes with tall heels to give extra height.*
- **suit** (noun) – *a set of clothes made from the same colour and material comprising of trousers (pants) or a skirt and a jacket. Often worn with a shirt and tie.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun)

1. I hate _____; I never know what to wear.
2. The Country Club does not allow members to enter wearing _____ clothes.
3. You should wear a _____ and tie to a job interview.
4. My company recently changed its _____ so now women can wear trousers instead of skirts if they want.
5. You don't have to wear a suit and tie, but we also don't allow jeans or sneakers. If you want to feel a little more relaxed in the office you can wear _____ clothes.
6. I hate wearing _____ all day at work; my feet are so sore when I get home.

Business Attire vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Is there a dress code where you work? If so, what is it?
2. When is it acceptable to wear casual clothes?
3. What kind of clothes would you wear if the dress code was business casual?
4. Does your work have dress-down Fridays? Does this make you feel valued?
5. Do you ever wear high-heels to work? Or do people in your office ever wear high-heels? Are these comfortable?
6. Do you ever wear a suit to work? Do you like wearing suits? Does it affect the way you work?

3. Video: Sexism & Pockets

You are going to watch a TEDx Talk by Emma Harner called "Pockets and Sexism."

Watch the video here: <https://youenglishpal.com/blog/business-english-conversation-lesson-plan-business-attire/>

Watch the video and after, discuss the following questions:

1. What clothes do you feel most comfortable in at work?
2. What do men typically wear in the office?
3. What do women typically wear in the office?
4. Are there different standards of dress for men and women at work?
5. What does a person's clothes say about them?
6. Do the clothes people wear at work make any difference to their ability to do the job?

4. Business Attire Conversation Questions

1. How do you expect people working in banks to dress?
2. Would you feel any different if the person serving you in a bank were wearing casual or sports clothes?
3. What do you think about people who have visible tattoos (on their necks or hands) working in a client-facing role?
4. Have you ever been consulted on your company's dress code? Would you ever consider quitting your job because of a strict dress code?
5. If there were no dress code whatsoever, what clothes would you wear to work that you haven't in the past?
6. How can dress codes affect a business?
7. What clothes do you think are inappropriate for work?
8. Are there any types of clothes people wear at work that are considered status symbols in your culture?

5. Business Attire Writing Task

Write a dress code for your company. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, include the following topics:

- The appropriate business attire for men and women.
- When it would be appropriate to wear casual clothes.
- Clothes that should never be worn at work.

6. Business Attire Answers

2. Vocabulary

1. dress-down Friday
2. casual
3. suit
4. dress code
5. business casual
6. high-heels