



CLOTHES

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

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

1. Clothes Discussion

1. Why do we wear clothes?
2. What are some of your favourite clothes? What are your favourite styles of shoe?
3. What clothes do you feel most comfortable in? Do you prefer comfort, practicality and functionality over style and fashion? Why or why not?
4. What kind of clothes do you wear when it's cold? What about when it's hot?
5. Do you like clothes shopping? How do you feel when you buy new clothes? How do you decide which clothes to buy? What are your favourite clothes shops?
6. How often do you buy new clothes? Do you spend a lot of money on clothes? What's the most expensive item of clothing you've bought?
7. What are some items of clothing that only men wear? How about women? Why is this?
8. What are some differences between the clothes worn by old people compared to young people?

2. Clothes Vocabulary

- **costume** (noun) – *a set of clothes that imitates another person or thing, or from a period of history.*
- **item of clothing** (noun) – *used to make “clothes” or “clothing” countable.*
- **wardrobe** (noun) – *all the clothes a person owns; the department in a theatre or film company responsible for the clothes worn by actors.*
- **look** (noun) – *someone’s typical appearance with regards to clothes or fashion sense; a particular style or fashion.*
- **dress code** (noun) – *rules for what clothes have to be worn or cannot be worn.*
- **provocative** (adjective) – *something that causes a reaction, usually interest, curiosity, anger or desire.*

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 bought five **items of clothing** last week, but I don’t think I’ll ever wear any of them.
2. Maria Carey has an infinite **wardrobe**! She’d never be seen dead wearing the same outfit twice!
3. My nephew wears his Spiderman **costume** every day.
4. The tennis club’s **dress code** says you cannot wear jeans.
5. This season’s **look** will be retro chic with autumn colours.
6. When she walked in the room wearing a **provocative** red cocktail dress, all the men turned away from their wives and girlfriends to look at her.

Clothes vocabulary comprehension questions

1. When have you worn a costume? If you could wear any costume to a party, which costume would you like to wear?
2. How many items of clothing do you think you own? Do you think you have too many items of clothing?
3. Which celebrities have the best wardrobe?
4. How would you describe your look?
5. Where have you had to follow a dress code? Do you agree with dress codes for restaurants, bars and sports clubs? Why or why not?
6. What items of clothing do you consider provocative?

3. Video: The Future of Clothes

You are going to watch a video by The Economist called "What will people wear in the future?"

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-clothes/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

Multiple choice

1. What has always led developments in fashion?
a) designers b) public opinion **c) technology**
2. What did the Industrial Revolution enable?
a) mass marketing **b) mass production** c) mass mechanics
3. What is FT Labs investing in?
a) small tech companies b) large fashion companies c) venture capital companies
4. What is Bolt Threads using to create silk?
a) spiders b) silkworms **c) test tubes**

Sentence completion

5. To create silk, **DNA** was taken out of a spider and transformed into yeast.
6. Scientists have figured out how to make material from pineapple leaves and **mushrooms**.
7. Myant is developing clothing that can **monitor** the movements of the person wearing it.
8. Smart fabrics contain electronic sensors that capture **(essential) data** from the human body.

Short answer

9. How does Francesca Muston describe the pace of change in the fashion industry? **Frightening, exciting**
10. What do staff at WGSN use to analyse political, social and environmental trends? **Big data**
11. What kind of choice is technology driving an explosion of? **Consumer**
12. What kind of revolution are we in the middle of? **Digital**

4. Clothes Conversation Questions

1. Which clothes last a long time? Which don't last a long time? What do you do with your old clothes? Would you ever buy second hand clothes to support a charity? Why or why not?
2. Is it better to wear smart clothes at work or clothes you feel relaxed in? Do the clothes people wear at work make any difference to their ability to do the job? What clothes would be inappropriate to wear at work? Why?
3. Should school children be made to wear a uniform? Why or why not?
4. What clothes would you wear to a fancy restaurant? How about meeting friends in a pub?
5. What are some traditional clothes from your country?
6. What does a person's clothes say about their personality? Do you act differently depending on the type of clothes you are wearing?
7. What effect does the clothing industry have on the environment? Do you ever feel guilty when you think about the conditions under which your clothes were made? Why or why not?
8. What kind of clothes will people wear in the future?

5. Clothes Writing Task

Write about your opinion of clothes. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Why we wear clothes.
- Your favourite clothes.
- Your prediction for the future of clothes.

Alternative exam practice question:

Some people say the clothing industry has contributed to serious environmental damage. How does the clothing industry damage the environment? What are some solutions to this?