

IELTS Clothes & Fashion Vocabulary

Topic Vocabulary >> Lesson 11: Clothes and Fashion

The examiner may ask you to talk about the clothes you like to wear or your attitude towards fashion. Read the following IELTS-style questions and answers below and pay attention to the phrases in **bold**. Use the ‘Definitions’ section at the bottom of the page to check the meaning of any phrases you don’t understand.



Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you enjoy buying clothes?

Pedro: I used to ... yes ... like most young people I was a bit of a **slave to fashion** and I’d always have to buy that **must-have** shirt or pair of shoes ... I’m not so bothered now though ... I wouldn’t feel comfortable wearing something **old fashioned** but I’m not as bothered as I used to be about what I wear ...

Examiner: What kind of clothes do you like to wear?

Marco: I prefer **casual clothes** actually ... I hate **getting dressed up** for special occasions ... personally I think it’s possible **to look good in** a pair of jeans ... but that’s my opinion ... I don’t think my wife would call me a **fashion icon** that’s for sure ...

Examiner: Are there many clothes shops where you live?

Sylvia: Yes ... there are lots in my town ... apart from the big chain stores we’ve got a couple of really nice shops that sell **vintage clothes** ... old clothes but in a **classic style** that never really **go out of fashion** ... I love going there ...

Part 2-style task

Describe someone you know who dresses well. You should say

- who they are
- how you know them
- what kind of clothes they wear

and say why you like the way they dress.

Tomoko: I'd like to talk about one of my teachers ... Miss Evans ... she teaches us English in the school I go to ... we always look forward to seeing what she's going to wear when our lessons start ... she's always very **well dressed** and **takes a lot of pride in her appearance** ... it's not that she dresses in very **smart clothes** ... she doesn't come to school **dressed to kill** or anything like that ... but what she wears really **suits her** ... and she has a great **sense of style** as well ... we often ask her where she gets some of her clothes and most of the time they're just **off the peg** ... and she says she's not interested in **designer labels** or anything like that ... she doesn't seem too concerned about **keeping up with the latest fashion** ... she just wears clothes that are **timeless**... yes ... Miss Evans is the person I think looks great in the clothes she wears

...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: What factors do you think affect the clothes we choose to wear?

Maki: It depends ... where we are or where we're going is a big factor ... if you are going out to a club or party you're going **to dress for the occasion** ... and then there are those who think it's important to look like they're **on trend** ... they'll want to wear the latest fashions ... there are lots of factors really ...

Examiner: What kind of things determine what is in fashion and what we should be wearing?

Martin: I suppose the big **fashion houses** and **fashion shows** must have an effect but the clothes you see **on the catwalk** don't always reflect what normal people wear ... so I suppose it will be things like what singers are wearing in videos or models are wearing in magazines ... that kind of thing ...

Examiner: Is it possible to look good without spending lots of money on clothes?

Corinna: I'm sure it is ... yes ... I suppose it's about **having an eye for** what looks good ... knowing how **to mix and match** different items of clothing that go well together ... I think you can pick up great bargains in charity shops ... sometimes for youngsters even **hand-me-downs** can look good ...

Definitions

- **to be on trend:** to be very fashionable
- **casual clothes:** not formal
- **classic style:** a simple, traditional style that is always fashionable
- **designer label:** a well-known company that makes (often expensive) clothing
- **dressed to kill:** wearing clothes that attract admirers
- **to dress for the occasion:** to wear clothes suitable for a particular event
- **fashionable:** in fashion
- **fashion house:** a company that sells (usually expensive) new styles in clothes
- **fashion icon:** a person who is famous for their sense of fashion
- **fashion show:** an event where models show off the latest in fashion designs
- **to get dressed up:** to put on nice clothes, often to go out somewhere special
- **to go out of fashion:** to not be in fashion any more
- **hand-me-downs:** clothes that are passed down from older brothers or sisters to their younger siblings
- **to have an eye for (fashion):** to be a good judge of
- **to have a sense of style:** the ability to wear clothes that look stylish
- **the height of fashion:** very fashionable
- **to keep up with the latest fashion:** to wear the latest fashions
- **to look good in:** to wear something that suits you
- **to mix and match:** to wear different styles or items of clothing that aren't part of a set outfit
- **must-have:** something that is highly fashionable and therefore in demand
- **off the peg:** clothing that is ready made
- **old fashioned:** not in fashion any more

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- ***on the catwalk***: the stage that models walk along to show off the latest fashions
 - ***a slave to fashion***: someone who always feels the need to wear the latest fashions
 - ***smart clothes***: the kind of clothes worn for a formal event
 - ***to suit someone***: to look good on someone
 - ***to take pride in one's appearance***: to pay attention to how one looks
 - ***timeless***: something that doesn't go out of fashion
 - ***vintage clothes***: clothes from an earlier period
- well-dressed***: to be dressed attractively