

# FASHION

also a prohibition

the fashions of the 50s

There is something irrational about fashion: what is worn now appears elegant and yet the fashions of a few years ago seem to us strange, funny, horrid, and even bizarre today. And undoubtedly what we accept as fashionable now will be laughed at in a few years' time. Fashion is unpredictable. It develops in almost imperceptible small stages but every few years the great creative designers who set the fashion change the style completely. Something quite new is launched in Paris, New York, or Rome which people may object to at first as too extravagant, or even in bad taste, but soon everybody gets used to it and begins to enjoy the new style. The new models are mass-produced by the clothing industry and they "sell".

Most women enjoy following the changing styles and dressing in the latest fashion. They seem to feel more confident in a new dress (if it fits them of course). Men, on the other hand, are often indifferent to the laws of fashion. Most of them see no point in reading fashion magazines or going to fashion shows or looking for novelty in what they wear. They pay regard to practical aspects such as comfort, and do not like the idea of discarding almost unworn clothes which have had the bad luck to go out of fashion overnight. Besides, as a rule they do not want to attract attention to themselves by looking different. They would be annoyed if everybody stared at them.

It is true that a great deal of time and money is wasted because of the constant changes, but in fact styles return, features are repeated, and there is a tendency towards a pattern of cyclical repetition. Nevertheless, things never repeat in quite the same way, and designers can draw on a whole range of possibilities for the distinctive features of a particular fashion. Take, for instance, a woman's dress. First there are the different lengths: floor-length and ankle-length, calf-length, and above the knee (or, more informally, maxi, midi, and mini). Then the dress may have an oval neckline, a low neckline, a V-neck, a high neckline; it may show a "classical" line or be straight or A-line; the waistline may be high, or low, or natural. There is also the variety of materials it can be made of: traditional natural materials such as cotton, wool, and silk and the vast selection of new fabrics based on man-made fibres. These in turn may be plain or patterned (in floral or geometric designs), and be taken from the whole spectrum of colours running from the brightest and most garish to the coolest and most subdued. Finally, as if this were not enough, there are the accessories to match the dress, which also have to be considered, and even such things as hair style and make-up, which are no less subject to the whims of fashion than the clothes they complement. In short, the permutations and combinations of fashion are endless.

## Interview with a fashion expert

- A: You're always reading *Vogue* magazine. So you must know all about the summer fashions. Could you give me some tips?  
B: Well, the first thing you should get is a light cotton suit with a narrow

## Tuxedo or jeans?

We also wear different clothes for different occasions. To school, most of the clothes you wear are casual: jeans, skirts, shirts, etc. If you are going to a fancy restaurant or other important occasion, you may get dressed-up and wear formal clothes. This would be a suit and tie for the men and a formal, probably long, dress for the ladies. On really formal occasions, like your wedding, men would wear a tuxedo and women would wear a gown.

Where to keep our clothes

Probably nicely folded in the drawers of a bureau or dresser. If we hang them on hangers, they go in a wardrobe or closet. We put our coats on a coat rack and our shoes on a shoe rack. Sometimes they just lay by the front door or on the floor of the closet. When our clothes are dirty and need to be washed, we say we need to do laundry.

## Materials

What are our clothes made of? Many things are made from cotton. Some sweaters may be made from wool which comes from sheep. Some jackets, belts, and shoes are made from leather which comes from cows. Polyester, a man-made fabric, is also used a lot in making clothing. Silk, which is a very soft material, is popular for pajamas, robes and underwear.

## Winter f.

Since it's winter, wearing shoes and socks, even boots. In the summer, and girls wear sandals. At 1, maybe you have slippers. If you wearing a skirt or dress, you may have tights or nylons on. If you go skiing, you may wear something under your pants called long underwear to keep you extra warm. Also important in winter are scarves, hats, ear muffs and gloves or mittens. You should also have a jacket or coat that can be heated or heated. Here are some seasonal



## Summer tips

In the summer, we wear a lot less clothing. If your shirt doesn't have sleeves, we say it is sleeveless or a tank top. We also wear shorts in the summer and if we go to the beach, we wear our swimming suit.

What about under your clothes? Most people are probably wearing underwear and girls are probably wearing a bra. If you put something through the loops in your pants to keep them from falling off, we call that a belt. Other accessories mostly girls wear include earrings in our ears, rings on our fingers, necklaces around our necks and bracelets around our wrists. We may also wear a barrette or headband in our hair.

## Fashion has a long history

The clothing people wear has always indicated their occupation, social standing, or what part of the world they come from. Fashion can be used as a form of free speech, giving you the opportunity to show off your personality and own sense of style. Many people think "the clothing makes the man," which means how you dress shows what kind of person you are. That may or may not be true, but there's another phrase that says "you never get a second chance to make a first impression." That means the first time someone sees or meets you, they will have an idea about you that will be hard to change. So use your fashion sense wisely and always dress your best!

Jacy Meyer (USA)

## Fashion facts & fakes

The hot cities for fashion include Milan, Italy; Paris, France; London, UK and New York City, USA. Designers create the clothing and then put on a show with models and a runway. Most of these clothes no one would wear on a normal day, but they may be fun for a special event. The important thing about these fashion shows is they show everyone what the popular colors and styles will be for the next season. If all the models are wearing brown and stripes, you can expect to see a lot of brown and striped clothing the next time you go shopping.

Some of the more famous designers are Ralph Lauren or Oscar de la Renta, who work out of New York and Chanel, Chloe, and Christian Dior, out of Paris. In London, Stella McCartney shows off her stuff, while Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci, and Giorgio Armani; take on Milan. Every year, there are new fashion "fads." These are clothing items that are really popular for a short time, and then seem really funny. If someone besides the true designer of an item makes a copy of it, we call it a fake, or a knock-off.

