

Describing the Way People Dress in English

Practice Worksheet - B2-C1

Aim: Practise vocabulary and sentence patterns for describing clothing, style, first impressions and dressing for different situations.

Exercise 1: Match the style words to their meanings

Write the correct letter next to each word.

Word	Answer	Meaning
1. understated		A. traditional and not very experimental
2. flamboyant		B. carefully dressed, neat and professional
3. conservative		C. simple and not trying too hard to attract attention
4. polished		D. unusual in an attractive or interesting way
5. quirky		E. very colourful, confident and attention-grabbing
6. laid-back		F. relaxed and informal

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences

Use the words in the box. You do not need to use all the words.

tailored | smart-casual | overdressed | underdressed | immaculate | minimalist | trendy | fitted | bold | muted

1. He wore a _____ suit that made him look professional and confident.
2. The invitation says _____, so you can wear a blazer but you do not need a tie.
3. Everyone else was in jeans, so I felt rather _____ in my formal dress.
4. She prefers a _____ wardrobe: black trousers, white shirts and simple coats.
5. His shirt was clean, crisp and _____, as if he had just stepped out of a magazine.
6. She often wears _____ colours such as beige, grey and navy.
7. The jacket is too tight. A more _____ cut would be more elegant.
8. He arrived in shorts at a formal dinner and felt terribly _____.

Exercise 3: Choose the best phrase

Circle the best option.

1. Her outfit (gives off an impression of / puts off an impression of) confidence.
2. He (comes across as / comes over as) approachable because of his relaxed clothing.

3. The dark suit (projects an image of / throws an image of) authority.
4. Her colourful clothes (suggest / advise) a creative personality.
5. His style is quite unusual, but it is better to say (unconventional / strange) in a polite description.
6. She always (dresses appropriately / wears appropriately) for the occasion.

Exercise 4: Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite the sentence correctly.

1. He is dressed with a black suit.

2. This colour fits her very well.

3. She is wearing a nice dress.

4. His clothes give an impression of very confidence.

5. I felt overdressed because everyone else was wearing formal suits.

Exercise 5: Upgrade the descriptions

Rewrite each basic sentence using more advanced vocabulary. Try to include style, fit, impression or personality.

1. She is wearing a black dress.

2. He is wearing jeans and a jacket.

3. Her clothes are colourful.

4. He is wearing a suit.

5. She always looks good.

Exercise 6: Picture description practice

Choose one of the prompts and write 4-5 sentences. Use at least four phrases from the useful language box.

- A person arriving for a job interview
- A student at a relaxed weekend gathering
- A celebrity on the red carpet
- A teacher on the first day of school
- A tourist walking around a city in summer

Useful language box

Adjectives	Sentence patterns
elegant, stylish, polished, understated	He/She comes across as ...
laid-back, casual, smart-casual, trendy	The outfit gives off an impression of ...
flamboyant, quirky, bold, expressive	The way he/she dresses suggests ...
conservative, minimalist, immaculate, tailored	The clothes make him/her look ...

Exercise 7: Speaking questions

Discuss the questions with a partner or prepare short answers.

1. Do you think clothes can reveal someone's personality? Why / Why not?
2. Is it better to be overdressed or underdressed for an important event?
3. What style of clothing gives off an impression of professionalism?
4. Do you prefer understated or expressive clothes?
5. How important is it to dress appropriately for the occasion?

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1 C, 2 E, 3 A, 4 B, 5 D, 6 F

Exercise 2

1. tailored; 2. smart-casual; 3. overdressed; 4. minimalist; 5. immaculate; 6. muted; 7. fitted; 8. underdressed.

Exercise 3

1. gives off an impression of; 2. comes across as; 3. projects an image of; 4. suggest; 5. unconventional; 6. dresses appropriately.

Exercise 4: Suggested corrections

1. He is wearing a black suit. / He is dressed in a black suit.
2. This colour suits her very well.
3. She is wearing an elegant / stylish / well-fitting dress.
4. His clothes give off an impression of confidence.
5. I felt underdressed because everyone else was wearing formal suits. OR I felt overdressed because everyone else was wearing jeans.

Exercise 5: Suggested answers

1. She is wearing a simple but elegant black dress that gives her a confident appearance.
2. He is wearing dark jeans with a casual jacket, which gives him a relaxed but stylish look.
3. Her colourful clothes suggest a creative and expressive personality.
4. He is wearing a smart, tailored suit, which makes him look professional and reliable.
5. She always looks polished and stylish, even in simple outfits.

Exercise 6 and 7

Open answers. Encourage students to use precise adjectives and cautious interpretation, such as "seems to", "might suggest" and "gives off an impression of".