

A PASSION FOR FASHION

Popular clothing styles over time



FASHION IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING, SO THAT IN ONE LIFETIME WE ARE LIKELY TO SEE THE SAME OR SIMILAR LOOKS COME AROUND MANY TIMES. YOU CAN GUARANTEE THAT THE THINGS THAT WILL MAKE THE MOST FREQUENT COMEBACKS ARE THE STYLES THAT FLATTER US, THAT MAKE US LOOK SLIM OR SEXY, LIKE HIGH HEELED SHOES AND TIGHT SKIRTS. OTHER THINGS, SUCH AS HATS, COME IN AND GO OUT OF STYLE REGULARLY.

SO LET'S LOOK BACK OVER THE DECADES AND SEE HOW FASHION HAS CHANGED AND WHAT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LOOKS OF EACH ERA WERE.

Colourful '50s

I can hardly think of the '50s without seeing photos of my mother and grandmother in colourful **COTTON PRINT DRESSES**, **tightly belted at the waist** with big full skirts. Stiff net **PETTICOATS** were worn underneath, great for rock and roll dancing.

Swinging '60s

The sixties were the era of swinging London. **MINI SKIRTS** and dresses were often worn with knee length white boots. Hair was either very short or very long and eye make-up was very black. **False eyelashes** were worn and even drawn onto the face Twiggly style. Paper dresses and even paper **KNICKERS** were in all the **trendy shops**. Another universal new style was the fashion to wear **BLUE JEANS** everywhere not just on the farm

or in the factory. Late sixties hippie-look fashion still keeps on coming back into style.



Lesley Hornby, known as Twiggy, made fashion history in the 1960s with her thin figure and big eyes.

Romantic '70s

The look of the seventies was romantic; long dresses often in **SATIN**; the main colours were **plum**, brown, pink and grey and they were worn with **FLOPPY HATS** and **FEATHER BOAS**.

The look of this period can be seen **side-by-side with the**



Disco fashion from the 70s

pop and disco music but also don't forget glamrockers like David Bowie.

Padded '80s

The eighties brought us fashion that we all want to forget, at the moment anyway. We called it power dressing: women wore business-like smart **SUITS** with big **SHOULDER PADS**. This look can be seen on the pop videos of bands like Duran Duran and The Human League.

Free-style, street style '90s

Nineties fashion is maybe harder to define. From that period up until the present day, we have seen so many looks. Street fashion has certainly been big with looks including grunge (wearing clothes that look dirty and untidy), goth (black or **purple** clothes), and retro (styles from the past).

Noughty new looks

Our current decade is now often called the Noughties, a play on the word "naughty" plus, of course, the fact that the year 2000 has three zeros, also known as noughts.

Street fashion continues to be strong; lots of different styles based around jeans are still with us: the waist line has dropped to the **hips** and, with **HIPSTER JEANS**, it has got even lower.

It seems to be the era of reality TV and trash magazines. Women buy these magazines to see what celebrities are wearing. The two women who I feel have most influenced fashion during the last decade are Kate Moss and Victoria Beckham.

I've had a sneak preview of next summer's look and guess what? I saw 70s style hair, 70s sunglasses, 60s style minis, and even some 80s style shoulders!

Susan McFie (Great Britain)

→ Vocabulary

- constantly** ['kɒnst(ə)ntli] - neustále
- to flatter** ['flætə] - lichotit
- cotton print dresses** ['kɒt(ə)n] - bavlněných šatech s potiskem
- tightly belted at the waist** ['taɪtli 'beltd wɛɪst] - pevně stažené v pase
- petticoat** - spodnička
- false eyelashes** [fɔ:ls, fɔls 'aɪləʃɪz] - umělé řasy
- knickers** ['nɪkəz] - kalhotky
- trendy shop** ['trɛndi] - módní obchod
- satin** ['sætm] - satén
- plum** [plʌm] - švestkově modrá
- side-by-side with** - bok po boku s
- padded** [pædɪd] - vycpaný
- purple** ['pɜ:p(ə)] - purpurový, nachový
- hip** - bok

••• Glossary

- stiff net** - a type of strong material that doesn't bend and holds the skirt outwards
- floppy hat** - a hat with a wide loose brim that hangs down over the face
- feather boa** - a long thin scarf made of feathers and worn around a woman's neck (and in the '80s, also around a man's neck)
- sneak preview** - an opportunity to see sth before it is officially shown to the public

Ladies' fashion in words



Elegant shirt can be worn all year round.

Fashion has an enormous vocabulary with lots of different words for the same thing. So, let's start from the top... and the word TOP is now used for almost anything you wear on your upper body. This is usually just for women's wear but I occasionally hear it used for menswear too.

Everybody knows the now universal T-SHIRT but that too can be called a top, especially if it has special details like **BUTTONS** or **LACE**.



A pleated mini skirt

The older word for a top was **BLOUSE**; this word is not too popular in fashion at the moment which probably means it will soon see a revival.

However, both men and women also wear **SHIRTS**: **CLASSIC SHIRTS** with traditional **COLLARS** and **LAPELS** and **POLO SHIRTS** for sportswear.

Another word adopted from the English by many countries is **SWEATSHIRT**, which was originally designed as a sportswear **GARMENT**, and it was intended to absorb sweat - not a high fashion concept! The French also adopted the word but, interestingly, it got changed in translation to something much nicer - it became a *sweetshirt*.

A **COLLAR** is something we add onto a **NECKLINE** but these words **are often used interchangeably**. There are as many types of neckline as a designer can imagine. The ones you are most likely to need are: **ROUND NECK**, **SQUARE NECK**, **V NECK**, **WIDE NECK**, **HIGH**, **LOW** and **PLUNGE NECKLINE**.

Apart from the basics, **SHORT**, **LONG** and **THREE QUARTER** length **SLEEVES**, there are many styles; and also



You wear sleeveless smock tops in summer; in winter they can have long sleeves.



A fashionable pencil skirt

SLEEVELESS. At the end of our sleeve we have something called a **CUFF**.

SKIRTS start with the very tiniest **MINI SKIRT** which is famous all over the world and was first seen in London in 1966. The mini was quite shocking at the time, and people who believed that all Brits were highly conservative might well have changed their minds. I can personally guarantee that it did cause a few minor car crashes.

Skirts can be described as **NARROW**, **TIGHT**, **PENCIL**, **STRAIGHT** and **CLASSIC**. As they get wider we get the **A-LINE** skirt, the **PLEATED**, and **FULL LENGTH** or **LONG SKIRT**.

For the last couple of seasons in the UK, it seems to me that everywhere you look there are **SMOCK TOPS** and **SMOCK-DRESSES**. They **are gathered under the bust and then flowing**, the style you wear when you are expecting a baby. I suppose they are quite good at hiding a bulge around the middle.



A classic skirt never goes out of style.

LEGGINGS – YES-YES FASHION!

The things that are really comfortable are also likely to make a return visit. Take for example **LEGGINGS**, probably first seen decades ago, on slim young women doing yoga. They soon became a fashion item, until a few years ago when they became a complete fashion no-no.

I have to **admit** I kept a couple of pairs of my favourite leggings in the back of the wardrobe, sometimes wearing them in bed or even to paint in my studio or do the gardening. Of course if my daughter (the fashion queen) saw me, there would be screams of horror.

Then one day I noticed that she was cutting the feet off her **TIGHTS** and wearing the **FOOTLESS TIGHTS**.

"Hey, I thought... she's wearing leggings!" Yes, leggings were already back in fashion and we were all allowed to wear them again!



The world of men's fashion

When it comes to modern fashion, it sometimes seems that women have more fun. Men's fashion has remained rather conventional for quite some time; the modern English suit was first worn in the 19th century. Eighteenth-century men wore **frills** and elegant **frock coats**, a much more romantic look. In earlier centuries men even wore **wigs** and tight leggings, and in the 16th century it wasn't just the women that wore high heeled shoes! However, today the modern suit is much simpler and can even be worn with or without a **tie**.

Scotland, of course, is one of the places where we can still see 'men in skirts' but don't let a Scotsman hear you say that, it may look like a skirt but it is always called a **KILT**.

Trousers versus pants

Women are perhaps more likely to put up with uncomfortable footwear or clothing in order to look good but surprisingly some young men all over the world have shown a **strong attachment** to **LOW SLUNG JEANS** or

extra **BAGGY PANTS**. Often they're so low that they don't cover their **backsides** at all, walking becomes very difficult and **tripping up** is a regular problem.

In the UK, we do use both words, **TROUSERS** and **PANTS**. (Some people use the word "pants" to mean that something is 'rubbish' or 'not good': His new car is absolute pants!)

A **BELT** goes around your waist and it usually has a **BUCKLE**. **BRACES** are elastic straps that go over your shoulders to hold up your trousers.

With **DENIMS** boys often wear **TRAINERS**, a **SWEATSHIRT**, **HOODIE** or a **ZIP-UP JACKET** made from super soft fabric.

Hoodie is a sweatshirt with a **hood** to cover your head. This word is now often used to mean the boys who wear hoods (sometimes with shades) to cover their faces, while they commit crimes.

What you wear on top

In a more romantic era you might have worn a **CLOAK**



Baggy pants and low slung jeans are popular for teenage boys. Untied runners and hooded sweatshirts often complete the look.

like Count Dracula, but now you are more likely to wear a **PARKA**, a very warm jacket or coat with a hood that often has fur inside. A **BOMBER JACKET** is shorter, fits tightly around the waist and **fastens** with a zip. When you wear a **RAINCOAT** or a **TRENCH COAT** you are prepared for rainy weather.

If you're going somewhere really special you might wear a **DINNER JACKET**.

UK - US underwear maze

In the UK, the word **PANTS** usually refers to men's underwear but sometimes women's. **PANTIES** and **UNDIES** are women's wear in the US and UK. **BOXERS** or **BOXER SHORTS** were only for men till girls started wearing them (used in the US and UK). Perhaps the easiest word is **BRIEFS**, as this is ok for both the UK and US men and women.

THE EXTRAVAGANT PROM

In the US there is a tradition usually called The Prom (the term derived from the late 19th century practice of a promenade ball). The Junior Prom or the Senior Prom, held at the end of the high school year, is an excuse **to get very dressed up**, boys in **TUXEDOS**, girls in **BALLGOWNS**, or at least in elegant evening dresses. Some parents **take the extreme approach** and pay for their kids to arrive in helicopters or with a horse and carriage.

In the UK, the Prom has now become a popular event at many schools. Whereas before we simply had The School Dance, where you could get away with wearing a pair of jeans, the **incredibly glamorous** Prom **is now taking over**. This is not so good for parents who may not be able to afford to pay for this entire extravaganza, but maybe it's great for kids to enjoy dressing up in really elegant clothes. It also gives us a much needed **sense of ritual**.



→ Vocabulary

LADIES FASHION IN WORDS

button ['bʌt(ə)n] - knoflík
lace [leɪs] - ozdobné lemování, krajka
collar ['kɒlə] - límeček
lapel [læ'peɪl] - klopa
garment ['gɑ:m(ə)nt] - část oděvu
are often used interchangeably
 [ɪntə'tʃeɪndʒəb(ə)li] - se používají obě (se zaměňují)
plunge neckline [plʌn(d)ʒ 'neɪklɪn] - hluboký výstřih
cuff [kʌf] - manžeta
are gathered under the bust and then flowing ['gæðəd bʌst 'fləʊɪŋ] - jsou našasené pod ňadry a potom volně splývají

LEGGINGS

to admit [əd'mɪt] - připustit
tights [taɪts] - punčocháče

THE WORLD OF MEN'S FASHION

frill - volánek
frock coat - dlouhý kabát
wig - paruka
tie [taɪ] - kravata
a strong attachment to [ə'strɒŋətʃm(ə)nt] - silnou náklonnost ke
backside - zadek
tripping up - klopýtání

buckle ['bʌk(ə)] - spona, přezka
hood [hʊd] - kapuce
cloak [kləʊk] - plášť
to fasten ['fɑ:s(ə)n] - zapnout
dinner jacket - smoking

PROM

to get very dressed up - vyfíknout se, nastrojít se
tuxedo [tʌk'si:ðəʊ] - smoking
ballgown ['bɔ:lgaʊn] - plesové šaty
take the extreme approach [ɪk'stri:m ə'prəʊtʃ] - to přehánějí
incredibly glamorous ['ɪŋkrədɪb(ə)lɪ 'glæməərəs] - neskutečně efektní
is now taking over - začíná převažovat
sense of ritual [sens 'ɪrɪtʃuəl] - smysl pro rituál

◆ Glossary

denims - jeans
shades - sunglasses

Br X Am English

knickers (BrE) - **underpants** (AmE)
tights (BrE) - **pantyhose** (AmE)
dinner jacket (BrE) - **tuxedo** (AmE)
braces (BrE) - **suspenders** (AmE)
trainers (BrE) - **runners** (AmE)
zip (BrE) - **zipper** (AmE)