Clothing and Clothes Shopping

Introductory Reading

Clothing is an important part of everyday life. Most people choose their clothes based on comfort, style, and the weather. Other factors are price and personal taste. Some people enjoy wearing casual clothes like jeans, sweaters, and sneakers, while others prefer more fashionable outfits. Clothes can also express personality; bright colors often show energy, and simple colors can reflect a calm personality.

Everyone has their own routine for clothes shopping. Some people enjoy visiting stores, trying on different items, and asking for advice. Others prefer online shopping because it is fast and convenient. One drawback with online shopping however, is that it can be difficult to choose the sizes or colors you want. Good quality clothes generally last longer, and many people now think about sustainability when they shop. For this reason, some prefer to shop in thrift stores. Clothing continues to change, but personal style always remains important.

Discussion Questions

1. What is fashion? Is being fashionable important to you?
2. Is it important to dress well? Which types of jobs or careers require special clothing or styles.
3. Describe the difference between the clothes you wear to work versus the clothes you wear at home.
4. Is it more important to feel comfortable or "dress for success"?
5. What do you know about the fashion industry? Why is it important?
6. Does fashion affect our lives? How?
7. How is fashion different from 30 years ago; from 100 years ago; from 500 years ago?
8. Would you like to be a fashion model? Is modeling only for beautiful people?
9. How is fashion in North America different from your home country?
10. Talk about the following fashion styles. Which styles do you prefer?

Casual	Romantic	Streetwear	Bohemian	Classic
Vintage	Grunge	Sporty	Formalwear	Preppy

11. How did you dress for school? Did you wear a uniform? Are uniforms a good idea?
12. Are shoes part of a good fashion outfit? How do you decide what type of footwear to wear? Do you have any of the following types of footwear? When would you wear them?

Sneakers/runners	Boots	Pumps	Sandals	Oxfords
Hikers	Flip-flops	Slippers	Work boots	Slip on Loafers
Espadrilles	Platforms	Wedges	High heels	Moccasins

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13. How much is an appropriate amount to spend on a new shirt or a new dress?
14. Where is your favourite store to go shopping for clothing?
15. What are your favourite clothing brand names?

Vocabulary List

outfit — a set of clothes worn together
fabric — the material used to make clothes
material — what something is made of (cotton, wool, etc.)
pattern — a repeated design on fabric
stripes — long, straight lines in a pattern
floral — a pattern with flowers
plain — without a pattern; simple
casual — relaxed, everyday clothing
formal — clothing for special or professional events
trendy — fashionable right now
classic — a style that does not go out of fashion
stylish — looks fashionable and attractive
comfortable — feels good to wear
loose — not tight; has extra space
tight — fits closely to the body
soft — gentle and pleasant to touch
durable — strong and long-lasting
brand — the company that makes a product
designer — a person who creates clothing
accessory — something extra worn with clothes (jewelry, bags, etc.)
scarf — a long piece of cloth worn around the neck
earrings — jewelry worn on the ears
boots — strong shoes that cover the ankle
sneakers — comfortable sports shoes
sandals — open shoes for warm weather
heels — shoes with a raised back part
jacket — a short coat worn over clothes
coat — warm outer clothing for cold weather
hoodie — a sweatshirt with a hood
sweater — warm knitted clothing for the upper body
trousers — long pants
fitting room — a small room where you try on clothes
discount — a lower price
return policy — store rules about returning items
customer service — help and support from store staff

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