

A

At this level you probably already know most of the everyday words for clothes. Here are some items of clothing or parts of them which are perhaps less familiar.



NOTE

Most items of clothing covering the legs are plural words only. If you wish to count them, you need to say, e.g. 'six pairs of trousers'. (See Unit 33.)



B

Verbs associated with clothing

Can I **try on** these grey shoes in the window?

I love **dressing up** for parties as I normally wear jeans.

The skirt is too tight and too short – it needs **letting out** and **letting down**.

The dress is too loose and too long – it needs **taking in** and **taking up**.

He **changed out of** his weekend clothes **into** his uniform.

Red usually doesn't **suit** people with ginger hair.

Her black bag **matches** her shoes.

Those shoes don't **fit** the boy any more. He's **grown out of** them.

C

Adjectives for describing people's clothing

How things fit: **baggy** **loose** **tight** **close-fitting**

Style: **long-sleeved** **sleeveless** **V-neck** **round-neck** **pleated**

How people look: **elegant** **smart** **scruffy** **chic** **trendy** **messy** **old-fashioned**
fashionable **well-dressed** **badly-dressed**

D

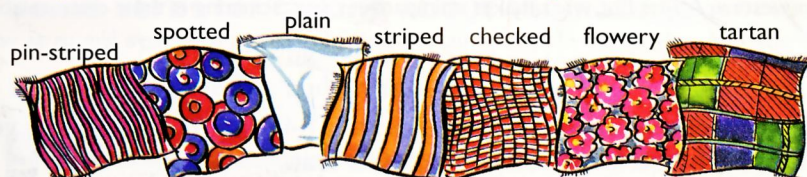
Materials which clothes are often made of

A **silk** shirt feels soft and light but also warm. **Cotton** shirts are cool but they need ironing. **Velvet** skirts are rich and warm for winter parties. Jeans are usually made of **denim**. **Suede** is a kind of **leather** but it isn't shiny. **Nylon**, **polyester** and **lycra** are artificial fibres.

We get **wool** from sheep; **woollen** clothes keep you warm when it's cold. All the above words for materials except **wool** and **woollen** can be nouns or adjectives.

E

Adjectives used to describe the patterns on materials



See Unit 37 for more useful vocabulary for describing someone's appearance.

Exercises

52.1 Which of the words illustrated in A fit best in the following sentences?

- 1 I must get my black shoes repaired. One is broken and both the have holes in them.
- 2 Do up your or you'll fall over.
- 3 There's someone at the door. You'd better put your on before you open it.
- 4 Put your on – this floor is very cold.
- 5 I've eaten too much – I'll have to loosen my
- 6 I've almost finished making my dress for the party but I've still got to take up the and sew on some

52.2 Complete these sentences with any appropriate word. Use *pair* where it is necessary.

- 1 Many women wear nighties in bed whereas most men and children wear
- 2 Blue are a kind of international uniform for young people.
- 3 It's too cold for Put your trousers on.
- 4 I need some new underwear. I'm going to buy three new today.
- 5 I've got a hole in my tights. I'll have to get a new
- 6 I've got a hole in my tights. I'll have to get some new

52.3 Write three items of clothing that collocate with these materials.

EXAMPLE velvet ribbon, skirt, jacket

- 1 silk 2 cotton 3 leather 4 woollen 5 suede 6 denim

52.4 Describe in as much detail as possible what the people in the pictures are wearing.



52.5 Put the right verb, *match*, *suit* or *fit*, into each of these sentences.

- 1 The blue dress her properly now she's lost some weight.
- 2 The blue of her dress the blue of her eyes.
- 3 That blue dress the girl with the blonde hair.

52.6 Describe in as much detail as you can how (a) you and (b) someone else you can see are dressed.