Clothes

Clothes and shoes, colours and materials, shopping, and the precise words of tailors, dress codes and clothing idioms, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 20

a pair of jeans · try it on · fit like a glove

Clothes *A1–A2*

T-shirt	shirt
jumper	dress
skirt	coat, jacket
jeans	trousers
shorts	pyjamas
uniform	tie
striped, spotted	checked, plain

a pair of jeans · My jeans are new

Shoes and more *A1–A2*

shoes	trainers
boots	socks
hat	cap
scarf → scarves	gloves
belt	bag
umbrella	clothes
I'm wearing…	She's carrying…

wear clothes · carry a bag

Describing and shopping *B1–B2*

Describing: loose, tight, baggy, smart, casual, formal, scruffy, comfortable, fashionable, old-fashioned, second-hand

Materials: cotton, wool (woollen), silk, leather, denim, polyester, linen

Verbs: put on, take off, try on, do up, zip up, dress up, wear out · fit, suit, match, go with

British / American: trousers / pants, jumper / sweater, trainers / sneakers, waistcoat / vest

In the shop: size, changing room, receipt, refund, exchange

*It **fits** me, but the colour doesn't **suit** me. Can I **try on** a bigger **size**?*

fit = the right size · suit = it looks good on you

Precise and figurative *C1–C2*

Tailoring: bespoke, made-to-measure, off-the-peg, tailored, haute couture

Wear and tear: threadbare, frayed, moth-eaten, worn at the elbows

Register: garment, apparel, attire · white tie, black tie, lounge suit, smart casual

Idioms: fit like a glove, dressed to the nines, wear the trousers, if the cap fits, keep it under your hat, at the drop of a hat, hot under the collar, on a shoestring, tighten your belt, in someone's shoes, a wolf in sheep's clothing

*The invitation says **black tie**, and his **bespoke** dinner jacket **fits like a glove**.*

Black tie = dinner jacket (US tuxedo)

In the clothes shop

- *Can I try this on, please?*
- *Have you got it in a smaller size?*
- *Where's the changing room?*
- *Can I have a refund?*

Common mistakes

- ~~My jeans is new.~~ → My jeans **are** new.
- ~~I'm wearing a bag.~~ → I'm **carrying** a bag.
- ~~a dress blue~~ → a **blue dress**
- ~~Can I prove it?~~ → Can I **try it on**?

Words with a past

- **jeans**: *Janne*, old French for Genoa
- **pyjamas**: Persian "leg garment"
- **bikini**: Bikini Atoll, 1946
- **trousers**: Gaelic *triubhas*, trews

My new words

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