UPPER-INTERMEDIATE (B2/C1)

Finding Your Fashion Style

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WARM-UP

1) What are your favorite pieces of clothing? What did you like about them?
2) How would you describe your fashion style? Do you follow trends?
3) How do you decide what to wear each day?

READING PASSAGE

Developing Your Fashion Style from Two Fashion Bloggers

Three Tips from Anuschka Rees[1]

1. Sit in a café and watch people pass by. Consider what pieces they are wearing, what colors they mix, how they pair their **accessories**, etc. When you find an **outfit** you like, figure out what specifically makes it great. Is it the overall **vibe**, the colors, or what?
2. Start by copying. Find an outfit on Pinterest or a fashion blog that you could wear regularly. Then try to recreate it with pieces of clothing you have or go to a store to try on clothes to help recreate it. This **process** helps you focus on details like fit, **silhouette**, and how pieces work together.
3. Escape your **comfort zone**. As research, seek out new styles and colors. Go into a store, try on clothes, take mental notes, and then leave without buying anything. Or go into a store you've never shopped at and challenge yourself to find one complete outfit that you'd wear.

Three Tips from Lucy Owens[2]

4. Find the colors that are most **flattering** to you. Some people look great in black and white; for others, it's navy and peach. Once you know your colors, learn to combine and **contrast** them.
5. Be honest about your body shape. **Highlight** your best features with clothes that fit well and suit your silhouette. This might mean wearing flowing clothes if you have a lot of **curves** or straight cuts for a straighter body shape.
6. Buy in timeless **neutral** pieces that never go out of style. Neutral colors are beiges, greys, and simple colors that match easily with other colors, like black, white, gray, beige, navy, or brown. A timeless piece might be a classic trench coat or blazer that can be a central part of your professional **wardrobe**, for example.

COMPREHENSION & FOLLOW-UP

1) **Recall & Retell:** What were the six points? Try to list them from memory.
2) What's your opinion of the tips? Are they useful for you?
3) What does Rees suggest you should focus on when you see someone wearing a great outfit?
4) Why might copying an outfit be a valuable starting point for beginners?
5) What is Owen's advice regarding colors?
6) What makes a clothing item "timeless"?
7) The list contains six points. Under which topic (1-6) do the following suggestions match?
    a. Buy a some simple white t-shirts that you can wear with many different looks.
    b. Don't buy clothes that you hope will fit *one* day.
    c. Go on Instagram and look for styles that you like.

VOCABULARY Match the **bold** words in the passage with their meanings below.

1)	accessory (n)	**a)**	making someone look good or enhancing their appearance
2)	outfit (n)	**b)**	a situation where someone feels safe, without trying new things
3)	vibe (n)	**c)**	a rounded shape
4)	process (n)	**d)**	a series of steps taken to achieve a result
5)	silhouette (n)	**e)**	a small item like a belt or bag used to add style to an outfit
6)	comfort zone (idiom)	**f)**	the shape or outline of someone's body or clothing
7)	flattering (adj)	**g)**	to emphasize or draw attention to something important
8)	contrast (v)	**h)**	simple colors like black, white, gray, or beige that match easily
9)	highlight (v)	**i)**	all the clothes that a person owns
10)	curve (n)	**j)**	to show differences when compared to something else
11)	neutral (adj)	**k)**	the general feeling or style that something gives
12)	wardrobe (n)	**l)**	a set of clothes worn together, often for a specific occasion

Pronunciation: Pronounce the above phrases with your teacher, stressing the underlined syllable.

PRACTICE **Paraphrase** each question using the word in parentheses. Then ask the questions to your partner.

1) What's the biggest difference between fashion in your country and fashion in the U.S.? (contrast)
2) What are some of your favorite small items that add the finishing touch to an outfit? (accessory)
3) If someone gave you an unlimited budget to completely replace all your clothes, what's the first item you'd buy? (wardrobe)
4) How much is too much to spend on a single look? Do you ever buy used clothing? (outfit)
5) What steps do you usually go through when shopping for something new to wear? (process)
6) Describe a time you tried something that felt unfamiliar or risky for you. (comfort zone)
7) In a job interview, which of your strengths do you make sure interviewers really notice? (highlight)

DEBATE (Pick a topic)

- *Buying luxury clothing and fashion items is a waste of money.*
- *You can learn a lot about a person by the way he or she dresses.*

Pick a side (FOR or AGAINST). Spend a few minutes preparing. The FOR side will present first.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY The Fashion Police

Your country's new president is very fashionable. She has created a **fashion police** to monitor the public and issue fines ($$). You have been hired to be the police chief.

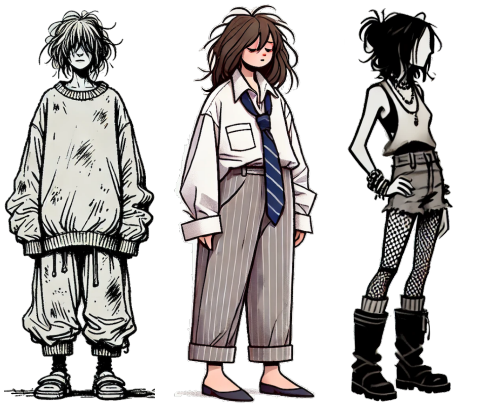
Task 1: Create a list of **five fashion crimes** that will cost citizens $100 each. Also, think of a punishment for people who commit more than one crime.

Task 2: Create a list **five fashion commendations** (good fashion behaviors) that you want your country to encourage. Citizens who receive commendations will get a tax rebate.

SAMPLE

ROLEPLAY (Pick a Role)

Situation: Casey is unfashionable. As a birthday present, her sister has given her $3000 and an appointment with a stylist to improve her style.



Weekend At work At the club

Stylist: You have two tasks:

1) Explain to Casey why it's important to look better.
2) She has $3000 to spend. Give her some advice on how to change her wardrobe.

You will start the conversation.

Possible expression: *Let's try to step out of your comfort zone...*

Casey: You don't care about fashion. Still, you will go see the stylist because your sister has already paid for it.

Possible expression: Is blowing $3,000 on clothing really worthwhile? (to blow money = to waste money)

VOCABULARY EXTRA Label the clothing.

trench coat / blazer / turtleneck / cardigan / khakis / bomber jacket / flats / blouse

FAMOUS QUOTATIONS Fashion Style

- *"Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak." Rachel Zoe*
- *"Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society."— Mark Twain*

VOCABULARY REVIEW

Insert a word from today's lesson into the appropriate blank from memory. If you get stuck, the word bank is below.

1) Consider what pieces they are wearing, what colors they mix, how they pair their _____, etc.
2) When you find an _____ you like, figure out what specifically makes it great.
3) Is it the overall _____, the colors, or what?
4) This _____ helps you focus on details like fit, _____, and how pieces work together.
5) Escape your _____.
6) Find the colors that are most _____ to you.
7) Once you know your colors, learn to combine and _____ them.
8) _____ your best features with clothes that fit well and suit your silhouette.
9) … wearing flowing clothes if you have a lot of _____
10) Buy in timeless _____ pieces that never go out of style.
11) … that can be a central part of your professional _____ .

SAMPLE

process / wardrobe / contrast / vibe / flattering / silhouette / curve / highlight / accessory / outfit / neutral / comfort zone

COLLOCATION REVIEW

Match the beginnings of the collocations with their endings.

1)	seek	**a)**	on clothes
2)	try	**b)**	jacket
3)	take mental	**c)**	notes
4)	your body	**d)**	coach
5)	trench	**e)**	shape
6)	turtle	**f)**	out new styles
7)	bomber	**g)**	neck

FINAL DISCUSSION

1) In general, are people from your part of the world fashionable?
2) What are some fashion trends that are popular now? Do you follow them?
3) Looking back at your past fashion choices, have you ever worn something that you now consider terrible? What was it?
4) Have you ever tried modeling?
5) If all clothing in the world were limited to one color, what color should it be and why?
6) What did you learn from today's lesson?

SAMPLE

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ANSWER KEY

Comprehension Questions

1. ***…***
2. *…*
3. *Focus on what specifically makes the outfit great, such as the vibe, colors, or styling details.*
4. *Copying helps beginners pay attention to important details like fit, silhouette, and how pieces work together, giving them a clear starting point.*
5. *Identify the colors that are most flattering to you, then learn to combine and contrast them.*
6. *A timeless clothing item is versatile, never goes out of style, and works well in different settings, such as a trench coat or blazer*
7. *Answers:*
   *a. **6** (Invest in timeless neutral pieces)*
   *b. **5** (Be honest about your body shape)*
   *c. **2** (Start by copying)*

Vocabulary Answer Key

1-e, 2-l, 3-k, 4-d, 5-f, 6-b, 7-a, 8-j, 9-g, 10-c, 11-h, 12-i

Collocation Answer Key

1-f, 2-a, 3-c, 4-e, 5-d, 6-g, 7-b

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[1] https://anuschkarees.com/blog/2015/05/18/getting-started-with-fashion-how-to-develop-a-sense-of-style-from-scratch-total-beginner-edition
[2] https://www.stylerises.com/post/7-top-tips-for-developing-a-great-sense-of-personal-style

SAMPLE