

Fashion in the workplace

Level

Pre-intermediate

Tasks

- Deciding if items of clothing are formal, informal or both
- Guessing the correct survey results in an extract from a report
- Reading an article about fashion in the workplace
- Deciding if certain words from the article are nouns, verbs or both
- Discussing points arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Tell students that this lesson is about fashion in the workplace. Hand out the worksheet. Ask students to decide if the items of clothes are formal, informal or both. After students have compared their answers, ask for feedback. Encourage students to give examples: e.g. a 'long dress' may be formal but a 'light summer dress' may be informal; jeans can be smart or casual; a suit may be very formal or informal; a tie can be serious or fun etc.

Suggested answers

Formal: suit / tie / smart jacket, Informal: jeans / T-shirt / casual jacket / sweatshirt, Both: skirt / dress / trousers

- 2 Ask students to guess which number is correct and then scan paragraph one to check their answers.

Answers

(a) 68% (b) 75% (c) 57%

- 3 Students read the article. Ask students what advice 'image consultants' give (e.g. present yourself smartly / avoid using too strong perfume or after-shave / take care how you dress, etc). You may wish to look at useful vocabulary, such as: *dress code / wardrobe / outfit / signals / tight / appropriate / accessories*.
- 4 Ask students to mark the words from the article N (noun), V (verb) or N / V (both a noun and a verb). If appropriate, students can create sentences or questions about their own companies using some of the words.

Answers

N/V: survey / present / coach / interview / dress / boost / signal

N: promotion / advice / consultant / recruiter / success

V: invest / impress

- 5 Ask students to discuss the questions in groups. Monitor the discussions. Ask one student from each group to report back to the class any interesting ideas discussed. Finish the lesson by providing language feedback.

Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://fashion.about.com/od/workstyle/Work_Style.htm

<http://fashion.about.com/od/workstyle/ig/Would-You-Wear-This-to-Work-/Bold-Print--Office-Ready-.htm>

<http://www.virginmedia.com/jobs/features/workplacefashionmistakes.php>