

IELTS Speaking #15 – Topic 1.12: Clothes

1. What types of clothes do you like wearing?

“I prefer casual clothes actually. I hate getting dressed up for special occasions personally I feel much more comfortable in a pair of jeans and a T-shirt or a jumper but always try to keep up with the latest fashion, you know, have to be on trend, at least.”

Từ vựng:

casual clothes	quần áo thông thường
get dressed up	ăn diện
keep up with the latest fashion	theo mốt
to be on trend	theo xu hướng
jumper	áo thun (cả quần cả áo)

2. Do you enjoy buying clothes?

“I used to...yes... like most young people I was a bit of a slave to fashion and I'd always have to buy this must-have shirt or that pair of shoes... but I'm not so bothered now though... I wouldn't feel comfortable wearing something old fashioned but I'm not as bothered as I used to be about what I wear as long as it suits me and the situation.”

Từ vựng:

a slave to fashion	người luôn chạy theo xu hướng thời trang
must-have (a)	phải có
old fashioned	lỗi mốt
suit sb	hợp thời trang

3. Are clothes and clothing fashions important to you?

“Oh, not really, clothes and fashions are not so important to me. I tend to wear clothes that are comfortable and practical rather than fashionable but because I usually have a good sense of style so even wearing casual ones, I still see myself well-dressed.”

Từ vựng:

have a good sense of style	có gu thời trang tốt
well-dressed	mặc đẹp

4. Do you wear different styles of clothes now compared to 10 years ago?

“Of course yes. 10 years ago, almost all of my clothes were hand-downs from my cousins. And you know, fashion trend was different too but nowadays, somewhere on the road, we can still see vintage clothes are crawling back to the highest of fashion. I don't know how?”

Từ vựng:

hand-downs from sb	quần áo cũ từ ai (anh chị em)
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fashion trend	xu hướng thời trang
vintage clothes	quần áo từ thời kỳ trước
crawl back	dần dần quay trở lại
the highest of fashion	đỉnh cao thời trang

5. What can we learn about a person from the clothes that they wear?

“Well, I think clothes people are wearing can say something about who they are. I mean, you know, some people are really careful about what they wear because they want to be seen as stylish, they have pride in their appearance. Other people wear clothes that show wealth or status, such as clothes from a fashion house or by famous designers. But you know, sometime, people just wanna flaunt and show off what does not really belong to them, if you know what I mean, I don’t know why they’re doing that.”

Từ vựng:

stylish	thời trang
have pride in one’s appearance	chú ý đến vẻ ngoài của ai đó
a fashion house	công ty thời trang
famous designers	nhà thiết kế nổi tiếng
flaunt = show off	khoe khoang, phô trương

Một số từ vựng khác về chủ đề này các bạn có thể dùng cho câu trả lời riêng của mình. Các bạn hãy tự tra từ điển các từ này để biết nghĩa và cách đọc, cách phát âm của nó nhé. Hãy cố gắng đặt một câu với một từ, một câu có nghĩa nhé, không đặt đối phó!!!

Nouns:

clothing	garment	trend	boutique
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Verbs:

flaunt	show off	dress up
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Adjectives:

stylish	chic	well-made	hard-wearing
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Phrases:

to be on trend	to be very fashionable
casual clothes	not formal
classic style	a simple, traditional style that is always fashionable
designer label	a well-known company that makes (often expensive) clothing
dressed to kill	wearing clothes that attract admirers

to dress for the occasion	to wear clothes suitable for a particular event
fashion house	a company that sells (usually expensive) new styles in clothes
fashion icon	a person who is famous for their sense of fashion
fashion show	an event where models show off the latest in fashion designs
to get dressed up	to put on nice clothes, often to go out somewhere special
to go out of fashion	to not be in fashion any more
hand-me-downs	clothes that are passed down from older brothers or sisters to their younger siblings
to have an eye for (fashion)	to be a good judge of
to have a sense of style	the ability to wear clothes that look stylish
the height of fashion	very fashionable
to keep up with the latest fashion	to wear the latest fashions
to look good in	to wear something that suits you
to mix and match	to wear different styles or items of clothing that aren't part of a set outfit
must-have	something that is highly fashionable and therefore in demand
off the peg	clothing that is ready made
a slave to fashion	someone who always feel the need to wear the latest fashions
smart clothes	the kind of clothes worn for a formal event
to take pride in one's appearance	to pay attention to how one looks
timeless	something that doesn't go out of fashion
vintage clothes	clothes from an earlier period
well-dressed	to be dressed attractively

Idioms:

the in the thing (= fashionable)	This summer, baggy jeans are the in the thing.
at the height of fashion (= fashionable)	Sports clothing is at the height of fashions.
up-to-the-minute (= the most recent)	I don't really follow up-to-the-minute fashions.
dressed to the nines (= wearing very formal clothes)	If a person is dressed to the nines, then it usually means they want to impress someone.

IELTS Clothes & Fashion Vocabulary**Part 1-style questions****Examiner: Do you enjoy buying clothes?**

Pedro: I used to ... yes ... like most young people I was a bit of a slave to fashion and I'd always have to buy that must-have shirt or pair of shoes ... I'm not so bothered now though ... I wouldn't feel comfortable wearing something old fashioned but I'm not as bothered as I used to be about what I wear ...

Examiner: What kind of clothes do you like to wear?

Marco: I prefer casual clothes actually ... I hate getting dressed up for special occasions ... personally I think it's possible to look good in a pair of jeans ... but that's my opinion ... I don't think my wife would call me a fashion icon that's for sure ...

Examiner: Are there many clothes shops where you live?

Sylvia: Yes ... there are lots in my town ... apart from the big chain stores we've got a couple of really nice shops that sell vintage clothes ... old clothes but in a classic style that never really go out of fashion ... I love going there ...

Part 2-style task**Describe someone you know who dresses well. You should say**

Tomoko: I'd like to talk about one of my teachers ... Miss Evans ... she teaches us English in the school I go to ... we always look forward to seeing what she's going to wear when our lessons start ... she's always very well dressed and takes a lot of pride in her appearance ... it's not that she dresses in very smart clothes ... she doesn't come to school dressed to kill or anything like that ... but what she wears really suits her ... and she has a great sense of style as well ... we often ask her where she gets some of her clothes and most of the time they're just off the peg ... and she says she's not interested in designer labels or anything like that ... she doesn't seem too concerned about keeping up with the latest fashion ... she just wears clothes that are timeless... yes ... Miss Evans is the person I think looks great in the clothes she wears ...

Part 3-style questions**Examiner: What factors do you think affect the clothes we choose to wear?**

Maki: It depends ... where we are or where we're going is a big factor ... if you are going out to a club or party you're going to dress for the occasion ... and then there are those who think it's important to look like they're on trend ... they'll want to wear the latest fashions ... there are lots of factors really ...

Examiner: What kind of things determine what is in fashion and what we should be wearing?

Martin: I suppose the big fashion houses and fashion shows must have an effect but the clothes you see on the catwalk don't always reflect what normal people wear ... so I suppose it will be things like what singers are wearing in videos or models are wearing in magazines ... that kind of thing ...

Examiner: Is it possible to look good without spending lots of money on clothes?

Corinna: I'm sure it is ... yes ... I suppose it's about having an eye for what looks good ... knowing how to mix and match different items of clothing that go well together ... I think you can pick up great bargains in charity shops ... sometimes for youngsters even hand-me-downs can look good ...

Definitions

to be on trend: to be very fashionable

casual clothes: not formal

classic style: a simple, traditional style that is always fashionable

designer label: a well-known company that makes (often expensive) clothing

dressed to kill: wearing clothes that attract admirers

to dress for the occasion: to wear clothes suitable for a particular event

fashionable: in fashion

fashion house: a company that sells (usually expensive) new styles in clothes

fashion icon: a person who is famous for their sense of fashion

fashion show: an event where models show off the latest in fashion designs

to get dressed up: to put on nice clothes, often to go out somewhere special

to go out of fashion: to not be in fashion any more

hand-me-downs: clothes that are passed down from older brothers or sisters to their younger siblings

to have an eye for (fashion): to be a good judge of

to have a sense of style: the ability to wear clothes that look stylish

the height of fashion: very fashionable

to keep up with the latest fashion: to wear the latest fashions

to look good in: to wear something that suits you

to mix and match: to wear different styles or items of clothing that aren't part of a set outfit

must-have: something that is highly fashionable and therefore in demand

off the peg: clothing that is ready made

old fashioned: not in fashion any more

on the catwalk: the stage that models walk along to show off the latest fashions

a slave to fashion: someone who always feels the need to wear the latest fashions

smart clothes: the kind of clothes worn for a formal event

to suit someone: to look good on someone

to take pride in one's appearance: to pay attention to how one looks

timeless: something that doesn't go out of fashion

vintage clothes: clothes from an earlier period

well-dressed: to be dressed attractively

IELTS Shopping Vocabulary

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you often go shopping for personal items?

Maxine: When I can afford it yes ... my college is in the city centre and I do a lot of window shopping ... but being a student I'm on a tight budget so I have to be careful with money ...

Examiner: Are there many shops where you live?

Jenny: We've got a few local shops nearby and a few independent stores but none of the big high street names ... I have to go into town for them ...

Examiner: Do you enjoy shopping?

Marco: It depends ... I hate it when the sales are on ... crowds of people all trying to snap up a bargain ... I find it all a bit stressful ... I also get annoyed when shop assistants try to give me the hard sell when all I want to do is look around ...

Part 2-style task

Describe a time when you bought something for someone. You should say

Coleen: I'd like to tell you about the time ... about four years ago ... my husband and I bought a computer for our daughter ... she was about to go to university and we'd promised her we would treat her to one ... at the time there had been a big advertising campaign for the latest Apple Macbook and our daughter was very keen to have one ... she kept telling us they were value for money ... even though they seemed very expensive to us ... anyway we

tried to shop around to see if we could pick up a bargain ... this was in the middle of the summer sales and wherever you went prices were being slashed on big brand names ... but unfortunately not Apple products ... we ended up having to pay the full price ... I remember my daughter justifying the cost by pointing out how nice the Apple carrier bag was ... but it was lovely to see her so excited and the customer service she's received during the four years she's had it has been excellent ... so it was value for money after all ...

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: Do you think we will stop using paper money in the future?

Louisa: I think it's almost certain ... at the moment it's still possible to pay in cash but I'm sure this will change ... the problem is people are more likely to get into debt and run up a credit card bill when this happens.

Examiner: How do companies encourage the consumer to spend their money?

Peter: Well ... a recent development in my country is something called 'Black Friday' where people are encouraged to shop until they drop and buy the latest must-have products ... then there are things like loyalty cards to get the customer back in the store ...

Examiner: What do you think shops need to do to create a positive shopping experience?

Tania: The main thing for me is not being pressurised to buy ... I appreciate that shop assistants are probably on commission but if I'm looking for clothes for example I like to take my time ... to try something on ... and to ask for help if I need it ...

Definitions

advertising campaign: a series of advertisements to persuade people to buy something

big brand names: large well-known companies or product names

to be careful with money: to not over-spend

carrier bag: bags (usually plastic) supplied by shops

customer service: the degree to which customers are treated well

to get into debt: to owe money

to give someone the hard sell: to put pressure on someone to buy something

high street names: well-known shops

independent stores: small shops independent of large companies

local shops: community shops

loyalty card: a card issued by a shop to allow customers to save money on the basis of what they spend

must-have product: a product that is very popular that a lot of people want to have

to be on a tight budget: to have a limited amount of money to spend

to be on commission: to pay someone in relation to the amount they sell

a pay in cash: to pay for something using coins or paper money

to pay the full price: to pay the full amount for something

to pick up a bargain: to buy something much cheaper than the normal price

to run up a credit card bill: to owe money on a credit card

to shop around: to try different shops to find the best deal

shop assistant: the person who serves customers

to shop until you drop: to do a lot of shopping

to slash prices: to reduce prices a great deal

to snap up a bargain: to buy something quickly that is being sold cheaply

summer sales: a period in the year when things are sold cheaply

to try something on: to see if an item of clothing fits or is suitable

to be value for money: to be worth the cost

window shopping: to visit a store to look at items without the intention of buying anything