

Dress Codes

Materials: Common School Dress Code Rules

Objectives: Students will become aware of school dress codes, business dress codes, and cultural differences with respect to dressing

Vocabulary: Dress code, midriff, cleavage, transparent, open-toe shoe, apparel, graphics, droopy, conservative dress

1. Ask the students if they know what a dress code is? If they have children in school ask what the dress code is for their children. If they don't have children in school, ask them to guess what they think might be some dress code rules. They can work in pairs if the class is large or you can do this as a group discussion.
2. If the students have worked in pairs ask them to share their results and list them on the board. If they have not listed all the rules that are on the handout Common School Dress Code Rules you can prompt them for the answers. Give the students the handout and ask them to read it. Ask if there are any vocabulary words they do not know. If they have questions see if other students can supply the answers before you respond.
3. Ask the students what they think about children wearing uniforms to school. Do they like the idea or not? Why? What are the advantages and disadvantages to children wearing school uniforms? Did they ever have to wear a uniform to school? Did they like it or not? Did they ever have to wear a uniform to work? Did they like it or not?
4. If some of the students are working, ask if their company has a written dress code. How do they know what is appropriate to wear at a new job?
5. Ask the students if people in the United States dress differently than people in their home country. Have they changed how they dress since they came to the US? In what way? If they came from a different climate, did they have difficulty finding appropriate clothes to wear?
6. Ask the students to discuss the question – What do the clothes we wear really tell about us? Again they can do this in pairs or as a group. They might talk about economics, religion, ethnicity, personality. Have them share their answers.
7. Ask them to discuss the question – Who should we dress for, ourselves or others? How sensitive should we be about how our style of dress affects other people? For example, if you were going to teach a class of teenage boys, how would you dress? If you were going to visit someone's house on a hot day and you knew the people in the house dress very conservatively, how would you dress?

Common School Dress Code Rules

1. No hats, scarves or sweatbands
2. No bare backs
3. No low cut tops that expose cleavage
4. No bare midriffs
5. No bare feet, open-toe shoes, or other unsafe footwear
6. No clothing made from see through (transparent) material
7. No clothing with words or graphics that are obscene, vulgar, racist, sexist, or promote the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco
8. No gang related apparel
9. No droopy pants or clothing that shows undergarments
10. No short skirts

Idioms

Hand-me-down clothes / second hand clothes: clothes that belonged to someone else first.

Birthday suit: naked. When he was at home alone on a hot day, he wore his birthday suit.

Dressed to the nines/dressed to kill: dressed very stylishly

Fashionista: a person who dresses in the latest fashions.