

Chapitre 21

Colors, Styles, Sizes Couleurs, styles et tailles

Compétence à acquérir : parler avec un vendeur des différentes options pour un même article

Dans le test du TOEIC, il vous arrivera peut-être d'entendre des clients qui choisissent des vêtements dans un magasin, ou de lire des publicités pour des magasins de vêtements ou des passages portant sur l'achat de vêtements. Ces documents peuvent parler de l'achat de tenues vestimentaires (**outfits**) pour différentes occasions, formelles (**formal**) ou informelles (**casual**). Ils traitent peut-être des tendances de la mode (**trends**) ou expliquent comment s'habiller de manière élégante et avec chic (**stylishly**). Les publicités décrivent les différents articles vestimentaires et les accessoires (**accessories**) en vente dans un magasin.

There are several things to consider when buying clothes. The first thing to think about when you choose a new **outfit** is the type of occasion you need it for. Will you wear it at work, at **formal** occasions, or in more **casual** situations? Then there are your own personal **tastes**. Some people enjoy following all the latest **trends** in clothing. Others just choose clothes that they like. Whether you are a **stylish** or **conventional** dresser, there are also practical considerations. You should choose **shades** that look good on you. **Opt** for clothes made of good material that won't **shrink**. Finally, buy only what you can **afford**. Then you can enjoy wearing your new clothes without worrying about how you will pay for them.

Vocabulaire

Accessory (n.) : *accessoire*

A long necklace would be a good accessory for that dress.

v. accessorize : *accessoiriser*

Some people like to accessorize a lot while others prefer to dress more simply.

Afford (v.) : *avoir les moyens, pouvoir se permettre, pouvoir s'offrir, pouvoir se payer*

Fashionable clothes are sometimes difficult to afford.

Les vêtements à la mode sont quelquefois difficilement abordables.

adj. affordable : *abordable*

adv. affordably : *raisonnablement, de manière abordable*

I like shopping in this store because the clothes are so affordable.

These clothes are affordably priced. (...sont abordables, sont à des prix abordables.)

⚠ Attention

Le verbe **afford** est suivi de l'infinitif (voir le Chapitre 11 pour les verbes suivis du gérondif ou de l'infinitif).

On l'utilise souvent avec le modal **can**.

I can't afford to dress in expensive clothes.

Je n'ai pas les moyens de m'acheter des vêtements chers. Je ne peux pas me permettre...

Casual (adj.) : *informel, de sport*

It is becoming more common to wear casual clothes to work.

adv. casually : *de manière informelle*

It is more comfortable to dress casually.

Conventional (adj.) : *classique, conventionnel*

Conventional clothes make a better impression in a business situation.

adv. conventionally : *de manière classique*

If you dress conventionally, people may take you more seriously.

Formal (adj.) : *officiel ; formel, soigné*

A dark suit is a good choice for a formal occasion.

adj. informal : *informel, simple, sans cérémonie, dénué de toute formalité, ordinaire, en toute simplicité*

adv. formally : *avec soin, bien (habillé), avec chic*

adv. informally : *sans cérémonie, simplement*

Some offices allow employees to wear informal clothes on Fridays.

When you go on a job interview, it is better to dress too formally rather than not formally enough.

Marie asked everyone to come to her party dressed informally.

Genuine (adj.) : *authentique, véritable, d'origine*

This jacket is made of genuine leather. (...*en cuir véritable*)

Opt (v.) : *choisir, opter pour, se décider pour*

You can opt for either a sweater or a jacket with that dress.

Vous pouvez choisir (de porter) un (gros) pull ou une veste avec cette robe.

n. option : *option, version, choix, possibilité*

If you are looking for a formal dress, we have several options you can choose from.

Outfit (n.) : *tenue (vestimentaire)*

That is a good outfit to wear to the office.

Shade (n.) : *nuance, ton, teinte*

This shade of blue looks very nice on you. (*Cette sorte de bleu, ce bleu-là...*)

☞ Homonymes

Le mot **shade** a plusieurs significations :

1. (n.) variation of a color : *nuance, ton, teinte*
2. (n.) area protected from sunlight : *ombre*
3. (n.) piece of material hung on a window to block the sunlight : *abat-jour ; store*
4. (v.) protect from sunlight : *ombrager, abriter du soleil*
5. (n.) [informal use, plural, American] sunglasses : *lunettes de soleil*

Shrink, shrank, shrunk (v.) : *rétrécir*

This material won't shrink if you wash it in cold water.

Stylish (adj.) : *élégant, qui a du chic, à la mode, de bon ton*

These shoes are very stylish now, but next year no one will want to wear them.

n. style : *style, genre ; chic, allure*

adv. stylishly : *élégamment, avec chic*

I like the style of these boots, with low heels and high tops.

For some people it is very important to dress stylishly.

Taste (n.) : *goût*

Madeline has good taste in clothes and always dresses well.

adj. tasteful : *d'un goût sûr, de bon goût, élégant*

adv. tastefully : *avec goût*

Her outfits are always tasteful.

She is careful to dress tastefully.

Trend (n.) : *tendance, mode*

There was a trend for short skirts, but now people are wearing long skirts again.

adj. trendy : *à la mode*

Mini skirts were very trendy at one time.

Try on (v.) : *essayer (des vêtements)*

When Bob tried on the shirt, he saw that it didn't look good on him at all.

Vivid (adj.) : *vif, éclatant, voyant ; coloré*

Susan has a taste for clothes in vivid colors.

adv. vividly : *de façon très vivante ; de manière voyante*

She described her trip to the store so vividly that we all felt as if we had been there with her.

☞ Attention

Le mot **clothes** est toujours pluriel.

Those clothes look good on you.

The clothes in this store are expensive.

Vous devez utiliser le nom du vêtement pour le singulier.

That dress looks good on you.

This shirt is expensive.

Certains mots qui désignent les vêtements avec « deux jambes » sont eux-mêmes toujours pluriel : **pants** (anglais britannique : *culotte, slip ; caleçon* ; anglais américain : *pantalon*), **trousers** (anglais britannique *pantalon*), **jeans, shorts, trunks** (*slip d'homme* ; **swimming trunks** : *caleçon de bain*) **panties, knickers** (*slip de femme*). Il en est de même pour **glasses**.

Those jeans look good on you.

These pants are expensive.

Pratiquez votre vocabulaire

Complétez les passages suivants avec les mots de la liste qui conviennent. Vous trouverez les corrigés à la page 332.

shades outfit vivid option formal

Choose the right clothes for the occasion. Color is an important part of your (1) _____. You may normally enjoy wearing (2) _____ colors such as bright oranges and yellows, but if you are dressing for a (3) _____ event or a business interview, quieter (4) _____ or dark colors are a better (5) _____.

trendy conventional genuine shrink try on

The labels in clothes tell you some important information. They describe the material used to make the item, so you will know, for example, if it is made of 100% (6) _____ silk or of a silk-like material such as rayon. The label also gives information about how to care for the item. This is important because some materials (7) _____ if they are washed in hot water. You (8) _____ clothes before you buy them to make sure that they fit well and look good on you. It is just as important to read the label so that you know exactly what you are buying. This is true whether you are a fashionable person buying (9) _____ clothes or a conservative person buying the most (10) _____ suit in the store.

styles affordable casual taste accessories

Are you looking for beautiful clothes at (11) _____ prices?

Look no more!

Philomena's House of Fashion has prices everyone can pay.

We stock everything from business clothes to (12) _____ outfits.

We have (13) _____:

Necklaces! Scarves! Purses! Hats!

You won't find last year's fashions at **Philomena's**. We stock only the latest (14) _____.

Whether you have a (15) _____ for bright colors or simple clothes, you'll find what you like at **Philomena's**.

Grammaire

Les superlatifs

Un superlatif établit une relation de comparaison entre un élément et les autres éléments du même groupe.

This is the *cheapest* necklace in the store.

C'est le collier le moins cher du magasin.

She dresses the *most stylishly* of all her friends.

C'est elle qui s'habille de la façon la plus élégante parmi ses amis.

Le superlatif de l'adjectif et de l'adverbe se forme de manière similaire au comparatif.

Le superlatif des adjectifs ou adverbes d'une syllabe et de deux syllabes qui se terminent par **-y** se forme en ajoutant **-est**. Le **-y** se change en **i** lorsqu'on lui ajoute **-est**.

Les adjectifs et adverbes au superlatif sont toujours précédés de **the**.

Une syllabe	Deux syllabes qui se terminent en -y
nice – the nicest	easy – the easiest
small – the smallest	happy – the happiest
big – the biggest	friendly – the friendliest
cheap – the cheapest	dirty – the dirtiest
short – the shortest	ugly – the ugliest
tall – the tallest	pretty – the prettiest
hard – the hardest	funny – the funniest
fast – the fastest	busy – the busiest

Pour les adjectifs de deux syllabes qui ne se terminent pas par **-y** et pour tous les adjectifs plus longs, le superlatif se forme avec **most**. La plupart des adverbes ont plus d'une syllabe et font leur superlatif avec **most**. Les adverbes qui se terminent par **-ly** forment leur superlatif avec **most**, même lorsqu'ils n'ont que deux syllabes.

Deux syllabes et plus	
expensive	– the most expensive
beautiful	– the most beautiful
attractive	– the most attractive
important	– the most important
interesting	– the most interesting
slowly	– the most slowly
quickly	– the most quickly
easily	– the most easily

Certains adjectifs et adverbes de deux syllabes admettent les deux formes : **-est** ou **most** (voir le Chapitre 20 pour les mots auxquels s'applique cette règle).

Certains adjectifs ont des formes irrégulières au superlatif :

good – the best
bad – the worst
far – the farthest/furthest

Le complément du superlatif est introduit par **in** (le plus fréquent) ou **of** (dans le sens de *parmi* ou pour exprimer un lien temporel).

This is the prettiest dress *in my closet*.
C'est la plus jolie robe *de mon armoire*.
Of all the stores in the city, this one has the best prices.
De (parmi) tous les magasins de la ville, c'est celui-ci qui offre les meilleurs prix.
This is the best time *of my life*. (lien temporel)
C'est le meilleur moment de ma vie.

Pratiquez votre grammaire

Complétez les phrases suivantes avec le superlatif du mot entre parenthèses. Vous trouverez les corrigés à la page 332.

1. This is _____ outfit I own.
(formal)
2. The stores on this block have _____ prices in the city.
(affordable)
3. Simone always wears _____ clothes.
(trendy)
4. _____ shade of blue looks best on you.
(dark)
5. I think Paul is _____ dressed person in this room.
(tastefully)
6. _____ way to shop for clothes is on the Internet.
(easy)
7. That is _____ store I have ever shopped at.
(bad)
8. He always opts for _____ clothes.
(casual)

Révision lexicale et grammaticale

Vous trouverez les corrigés à la page 332.

Phrases à compléter

Choisissez le mot qui convient pour compléter les phrases suivantes.

1. The _____ dressed people make the best impression at job interviews.
(A) most conventionally
(B) most conventional
(C) conventional
(D) convention
2. I bought _____ clothes in the store, and now I regret it.
(A) cheaper
(B) the cheapest
(C) cheaply
(D) cheap
3. That store sells high fashion only and most people can't _____ to shop there.
(A) afford
(B) affords
(C) affordable
(D) affordably
4. I prefer clothes with a conservative _____ and dark colors.
(A) style
(B) styled
(C) stylish
(D) stylishly
5. The weekend is _____ time of the week for most stores.
(A) busy
(B) busier
(C) busiest
(D) the busiest

6. This store sells the _____ beautiful clothes I have ever seen.
 (A) much
 (B) many
 (C) most
 (D) best
7. It is going to be a casual event and you can wear _____ clothes.
 (A) formal
 (B) formally
 (C) informal
 (D) informally
8. She received a lot of attention because she was _____ stylishly dressed person at the party.
 (A) more
 (B) most
 (C) the very
 (D) the most
9. If the shirts _____ so small that you can no longer wear them, take them back to the store for a refund.
 (A) try on
 (B) shrink
 (C) style
 (D) opt
10. That purple is a nice color, but you would look better in a lighter _____.
 (A) vivid
 (B) shade
 (C) trend
 (D) taste

Exercice de compréhension

Lisez le courriel suivant, puis répondez aux questions.

From: sylvia@bigcorp.com

Date: February 21

To: margarita@bigcorp.com

Subject: Banquet

Hi Margarita,

I got your message asking for advice about choosing an outfit for the company's annual banquet next month. I know this is your first banquet, but don't worry. You have good taste, and I know you will find something nice to wear. It is not a casual event, of course, and you will need to dress formally. That doesn't mean you have to be boring or conventional, although you should avoid vivid colors. If you want, I will go shopping with you. That way, you can try on dresses in the stores and together we can choose the best one for you. You should be prepared to spend some money. I know you can't afford the most expensive dress, but you shouldn't buy the cheapest one either. Let me know what days you are free to go shopping.

Sylvia

- Why did Sylvia write the email?
 (A) To ask for help
 (B) To give advice
 (C) To recommend a store
 (D) To offer a dress
- What kind of clothes should Margarita wear to the banquet?
 (A) cheap
 (B) casual
 (C) formal
 (D) conventional
- The word *outfit* is closest in meaning to
 (A) date
 (B) menu
 (C) colors
 (D) clothes
- The word *vivid* is closest in meaning to
 (A) bright
 (B) quiet
 (C) dark
 (D) boring