

Business suits and ties worn less and less

22nd March, 2019



More and more companies around the world are telling staff they do not need to wear a suit and tie. In the last century, most business people and office workers had to wear business clothes. In today's world, that is becoming less important. Companies now want their workers to dress in a more casual way. This is to make staff feel more relaxed, so they work harder. The latest international company to relax its dress code is the investment bank Goldman Sachs. It said its staff could choose not to wear a suit, but asked employees to "exercise good judgment" in deciding how to dress for work. It said the shift was due to "the changing nature of workplaces generally in favor of a more casual environment."

Many people in business think more casual dress is not a good thing. Justin Urquhart Stewart, founder of the investment company 7IM, said not wearing a suit and tie could give a bad impression to clients and customers. He said: "You're looking after people's money, so you should behave and dress respectfully. I would not expect to hand over my pension to someone in jeans, loafers and a football shirt. It may be old-fashioned but I think it would be dangerous for a business to do that." He added: "If you let people dress sloppily, that is how your brand will be perceived." Many companies, like Google and Amazon, allow their staff to dress casually and wear jeans and T-shirts to the office.

Sources: bbc.com / reuters.com / fox8.com

Writing

All business people and office workers should wear a suit. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

companies / suit / tie / century / business / casual / dress code / investment / nature / a good thing / a bad impression / money / pension / old-fashioned / sloppy / T-shirts

True / False

- a) In the last century, fewer people wore suits and ties. T / F
- b) Companies today want workers to dress in a more casual way. T / F
- c) A tech company is the latest to relax its dress code. T / F
- d) An investment bank asked its workers to do more exercise. T / F
- e) Many business people think casual dress is not a good thing. T / F
- f) A boss said workers who look after people's money should wear a suit. T / F
- g) The boss said a brand might suffer if workers dressed sloppily. T / F
- h) Amazon does not let its workers wear jeans to work. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. telling | a. loosen |
| 2. workers | b. seen |
| 3. casual | c. creator |
| 4. relax | d. informal |
| 5. due to | e. give |
| 6. founder | f. informing |
| 7. impression | g. out of date |
| 8. hand over | h. because of |
| 9. old-fashioned | i. employees |
| 10. perceived | j. image |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of business suits?
- b) Should business people have to wear business suits?
- c) How do you feel when you wear a suit?
- d) Should a country's leader wear a suit?
- e) Do people in business suits look better?
- f) How uncomfortable is a business suit and tie?
- g) Would you work harder in casual clothes?
- h) Should companies also tell workers to stop wearing uniforms?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. More and more companies | a. respectfully |
| 2. This is to make staff feel more | b. a more casual environment |
| 3. relax its dress | c. investment company 7IM |
| 4. exercise good | d. be perceived |
| 5. generally in favor of | e. code |
| 6. founder of the | f. impression to clients |
| 7. give a bad | g. around the world |
| 8. behave and dress | h. business to do that |
| 9. it would be dangerous for a | i. judgment |
| 10. how your brand will | j. relaxed |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should office workers have to wear suits and ties?
- Should business men and women have to wear a suit and tie?
- Should teachers wear casual or formal clothes?
- Would a bank manager in a T-shirt give a bad impression?
- Would you like your teacher to wear a T-shirt?
- Is it good or bad to dress sloppily?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of Goldman Sachs?

Spelling

- telling ftafs they do not need to
- In the last ecrutyn
- The stalet international company
- exercise good ejntumdg
- the changing nterau of workplaces
- a more alcasu environment
- nofdreu of the investment company
- give a bad npisemsroi
- entsilc and customers
- behave and dress yeuctpsrfllel
- It may be old-finhaeods
- people dress oiplslpy

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. a	5. h
6. c	7. j	8. e	9. g	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Suits

You think suits are the best clothes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their clothes. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): T-shirts, jeans or socks.

Role B – T-Shirts

You think T-shirts are the best clothes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their clothes. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): suits, jeans or socks.

Role C – Jeans

You think jeans are the best clothes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their clothes. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): T-shirts, suits or socks.

Role D – Socks

You think socks are the best clothes. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their clothes. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): T-shirts, jeans or suits.

Speaking – Clothes

Rank these with your partner. Put the best clothes at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| • suit | • jeans |
| • socks | • shirt |
| • cap | • gloves |
| • T-shirt | • short pants |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.