

FAMOUS UK FASHIONS

one stop english

Age: Teenager/Adult

Level: Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time: 30 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

- » identify fashions from the past
- » write about a recent fashion

Language focus: fashions; clothes and accessories

Materials: one copy of worksheet 1 and 2 per student

PROCEDURE

1. Students make a list of the clothes that the person next to them is wearing. Set a time limit of 1–2 minutes. While they are doing this, write the following questions on the board:

- How important are clothes to you?
- Do you judge people by the way they dress?
- Does music influence/has music ever influenced the way you dress?
- What would you never wear?
- What is the most you have spent on an article of clothing?

Get students to discuss the questions in pairs, then feedback as a whole class.

2. Ask what the following are (or see if the students can guess!): *zazous, zooties, ton-up boys, greasers, b-boy and fly girls, soul boys, headbangers, two-tone, minimalists, casuals, yardies, ragamuffins and cyberpunks.*

Answer: *They are all fashions.*

Find out from students what the latest fashions are and what clothes are associated with each fashion. Is music associated with the fashions? Do they know how and when these fashions started?

3. Explain that students are going to read about some of the most famous fashions in the UK in the twentieth century. Many have been influenced by (or had an influence on) music. Give out Worksheet 1. Students look at the pictures and, in pairs, discuss what each person is wearing. They should then try and put the pictures in order from the oldest to the most recent fashion. Set a time limit for this of up to five minutes, then discuss as a class. Don't give away the answers yet.

4. Give out Worksheet 2. Inform the students that the paragraphs are in the wrong order and that they need to put them in the correct order going from earliest to latest. Ask students to underline and look up any new words, asking you if they can't find the answer. They should then match up the paragraphs to the pictures that represent them. Tell the students that some paragraphs have more than one picture.

These activities can be done either individually or in pairs. When completed, feedback as a class and give the correct answers.

5. Students work in pairs and write another paragraph about a fashion that has appeared in the twenty-first century, either in their country or the UK.

Key:

1. Edwardian (image e – this lady is wearing a long dress with a high collar, long sleeves and gloves. She is carrying an umbrella. An underskirt (or petticoat) can just be glimpsed underneath)
2. Flappers (image b – this lady is wearing a dress with beads and a feather boa)
3. Wartime fashion (image m)
4. Swing dresses and petticoats (image j – this woman is wearing pearls and a swing dress)
5. Hippies, Mods and Rockers (image a – this image shows a girl in a mini skirt (dress) and go-go boots, with a 'beehive' style hair do; image c – this boy is wearing a parka jacket; image f – this hippy is wearing long, loose clothing, beads and is making a 'peace' sign with her fingers; image k – the man is wearing a leather jacket)
6. Flares, skinheads and glam rock (image d – this man represents a skinhead; image h – this Elvis impersonator is wearing flared trousers)
7. Punks and Acid house (image g – this is a psychedelic T-shirt; image l – this is a punk)
8. Hip-hop and grunge (image i – this is an example of hip-hop/street style dancing)

