

LESSON 7.

Opinions differ

Communicative area: expressing opinion

Active vocabulary: fashion, style

1. Look at a still from a fashion photo-shoot. Discuss the questions below.

- a) How would you describe the style of clothes in the picture:

latest, modern, new, classical, folk, old-fashioned, traditional, elegant, street, Gothic, formal, punk, sports, country, emo, hippie



A

- b) What style are the clothes below?

torn jeans, white shirt, a cowboy hat, a bright yellow tie, a baggy sweater, green trainers, white keds, a simple knee-length dress, a tight mini skirt, knee-length boots, skinny jeans, a thin black tie

- c) Give more examples of different style clothes.

Example: *A checked shirt is an example of country style clothes.*

2. a) What problems may students have with their clothes at school?

- b) Read an opinion article for the school newspaper and find out.

People and their clothes

By Rahul S., Agawam, MA

“Can you believe what John wore to school today?”
“Have you seen those new trainers Mike has on?”
Statements like these are made every day by teens in our public schools. Everyone is discussing what kind of trainers Mike is wearing and how bad John was dressed than who John and Mike really are. Mike could be a bully and John the loveliest person in the world. Then why should Mike have more friends than John? The sad fact is that Mike will have more friends. Why? Because of his wardrobe. Teens are so interested in fashion, not because they like to dress up, but because they feel they have to. Why should a young teenager own a \$100 pair of trainers when a \$30 dollar pair is just as good? It is not because they like the expensive pair more but because their “friends” like them more.

With boys, they make comments in a funny joking way (not that that is OK), but I have seen girls who are really evil. Amy makes fun of Julie’s red dress. She knows that Julie can hear her and is hurt, but she doesn’t stop. She will continue until Julie is almost ready to cry. When Julie gets home, she will probably throw her red dress away. Situations like this should never happen, but they do. Should one person have more friends than another just because of his or her clothes? Teens seem to think so.

c) Find in the article:

- *personal examples*
- *an example of bullying*
- *why teens are fond of fashion*
- *a fact that the author thinks is not fair*

– words that mean: too expensive, to put on one's best clothes, bad and angry

d) What can help the situation in Rahul's school?

3. a) Read the arguments for and against school uniform. Put them into 2 groups.

a) I personally used to dislike uniforms, but since we got that new style with checked skirts and dresses, I think they are fine.

b) It's true that uniforms help students, because it takes less time to get ready in the morning, but I love my style and enjoy dressing up and think that uniforms are boring with the same clothes and same colour every day.

c) In my opinion, uniforms could make school a happier place. The kids that are bullied because of the way they dress just won't get bullied.

d) Some people say that uniforms could save the parents' money. When kids have a uniform, they will need fewer clothes, only for after-school and for weekends or summer vacation.

e) Personally, I think that uniforms are fine but you should still let pupils make it their style. If they do not want to wear something and have to then they are naughty and unhappy. And that is not good for studying.

f) Speaking for myself, I should say uniform is my dream. A few minutes before my school bus's arrival, I am still trying to decide what to wear. With uniform I could have extra time for sleeping.

g) As for me, I don't like them, because they are uncomfortable, and make you feel like you are in your church clothes all the time.

h) My opinion is that uniforms help students think about learning not worrying what other people think about them.

i) It's a fact that school uniforms help make a safer school. Uniforms will make it easier to see those who are not from the school and this way help the safety of the students. Sometimes students from other schools do go to other schools to cause problems.

j) Some children believe schools are trying to control them by making them wear uniforms, but they have to remember that school is not a fashion show. You are at school to learn, not make fun of the people that cannot buy the latest style.

k) Believe me, in school, one of the most important things is your style. The more you have, the more popular you will probably be. With uniforms, everyone is united under the same style. So, no problem to worry about for many students.

l) As for me, fashion is my hobby, so I don't like to be told what to wear.

b) Read the statements again. What arguments haven't you thought of? Are all of your arguments mentioned?

c) Find words and phrases that help express one's opinion.

4. a) Think over the list of arguments for and against the school uniform in the pictures in this lesson.

B



C



b) Share your opinion with your groupmates.