
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute Vocabulary

Adjectives and adverbs



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Finn

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary - the show that teaches you how to study vocabulary. I'm Finn...

Alice

And I'm Alice. Hello. Today's show is all about fashion.

Finn

Ahh, fashion. What to wear...

Alice

And what not to wear. And today we're going to listen to some people talking about what to wear to a social occasion...

Finn

And we'll look at a very important area of vocabulary: the difference between adjectives and adverbs.

Alice

We'll have a quiz to test what we've learnt...

Finn

And we'll give you a top tip to help you learn more vocabulary.

Alice

So let's get started - with a conversation. Mike and Sarah are getting ready to go to a party, but they have very different ideas about what Mike should wear.

Finn

While you listen, try to answer this question. What does Mike wear to the party?

Alice

Let's find out.

INSERT

Sarah

You're not seriously going to the party dressed like that! You'll be the most scruffily-dressed man there.

Mike

The invitation said casual, so I'm dressing casually: jeans and a T-shirt. What's wrong with that?

Sarah

It's too scruffy: the invitation said smart-casual. You need to wear something much smarter, Mike.

Mike

What, a suit?

Sarah

No, that's too formal - it's not a job interview. Just wear a nice fashionable shirt.

Mike

But I hate fashion. I can't dress fashionably. I'm the most unfashionable person I know.

Sarah

Well, you'll be the only one in a T-shirt.

Mike

OK, you win. I'll wear my black shirt and the smart shoes. But I'm still wearing my jeans.

Sarah

If you must.

Finn

So, did you hear what Mike wore to the party in the end?

Alice

He wore a black shirt, jeans, and his smart shoes.

Finn

Well done if you got that right. Now, let's take a closer look at some of the fashion-related vocabulary we heard there - starting with some of the adjectives.

Alice

Yes and of course adjectives are words which describe nouns, and there were lots of adjectives describing people and their clothes. Sarah thinks Mike is scruffy.

Finn

Which means not neat or clean.

Alice

But Mike wants to be casual.

Finn

Informal and comfortable.

Alice

She thinks he should be smart.

Finn

Nice and stylish.

Alice

But not too formal.

Finn

Old-fashioned and serious.

Alice

And she wants him to wear something fashionable.

Finn

New and stylish.

Alice

Now, we can change these words into adverbs - words that describe verbs. And Mike and Sarah used lots of adverbs to describe the way people dress. We heard: *scruffily*, *casually*, *smartly*, *formally* and *fashionably*.

Finn

And because they are adverbs, they all end in the letters 'l-y'. Here are some clips from the conversation. Listen out for adverbs which describe the verb dress.

You'll be the most scruffily-dressed man there.

So I'm dressing casually. Jeans and a T-shirt.

I can't dress fashionably.

IDENT

You're listening to bbclearningenglish.com.

Alice

And coming up soon is our vocabulary quiz: but first, let's have a quick recap of today's fashion-related vocabulary.

Finn

First we had some adjectives.

Alice

Scruffy, casual, smart, formal, fashionable.

Finn

And then we looked at some adverbs.

Alice

Scruffily, casually, smartly, formally, fashionably.

Finn

And now: it's quiz time. All you have to do is finish the sentences with words from today's programme. There are two sentences, each with three choices. So, are we ready? Number 1: *Everyone is wearing tight jeans this year - they are really:* a) fashion b) fashionable c) fashionably.

Alice

The answer is: b) fashionable.

Finn

That's right. Now, question 2. *I had a job interview yesterday, so I dressed very:* a) formally b) scruffy c) formal.

Alice

It's: a) formally.

Finn

That's right.

Alice

I hope you got that at home. And that brings us to the end of today's show, so we'll leave you with today's top tip for learning vocabulary, which is, Finn...

Finn

To help you remember how to use adjectives and adverbs, it's a really good idea to write down example sentences.

Alice

That's right. Example sentences will help you use words more accurately than if you just note down the word with a translation.

Finn

And there's more about this on www.bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

Both

Bye!