



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Odd One Out

In each of the groups of four items, one of the items is different from the other three.

Work in pairs and decide which word is different. You and your partner need to agree on why the word is different and be able to explain it to the rest of the class. One has been done for you as an example.

Example: shoes, slippers, boots, sandals

Answer: Slippers are different as they are worn inside a house and / or with pajamas. You wouldn't wear them to work.

- suit, T-shirt, tie, belt
- socks, pajamas, skirt, trousers
- dressing gown, dress, vest, blouse
- coat, shorts, swimming costume, bikini,
- sports coat, blazer, shirt sleeves, jacket

B: Power Dressing

Power dressing is an expression describing the way people like to dress when they go to meetings or interviews or in other situations when they need to impress others.

Work in pairs. Write two lists: A and B. A is a list of what you think a man should wear to work in an office and list B is what you think a woman should wear to work in an office. You have three minutes.

Reading Activities

A: Summarizing

Read today's article and choose the best summary.

1. Meetings in Thailand should be short in order to save power.
2. Dress standards in Thailand have dropped.
3. Thais have been asked to save power by wearing cooler clothes.
4. Thailand's Prime Minister tells public servants to cancel meetings.
5. Power dressing saves electricity.

Dressing Down to Keep Energy Levels Up

BANGKOK Tuesday September 25 (Reuters) - Tropical Thailand is to ask workers to stop wearing suits as part of the country's latest bid to **conserve** energy, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

This is the latest brainwave of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who said over the weekend workers should turn up in shirt sleeves and then they wouldn't need air-conditioners turned up so high.

At its weekly meeting, the cabinet passed a **resolution** ask-

ing all **public servants** not to wear jackets and urging private employees to do the same, Wissanu Krea-ngam, secretary-general to the **cabinet**, told reporters.

And he said only four of six air-conditioners in the cabinet room had been turned on.

"Initially it was not hot in the room, but if a meeting lasts a long time, the temperature might need to be lowered a bit," he said.

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- conserve - save
- public servants - people who work for the government
- resolution - decision or rule
- cabinet - top level of government



B: Comprehension

Read the article again and write a question for each of the following answers.

1. Question: _____?
Answer: It is tropical.
2. Question: _____?
Answer: Stop wearing suits.
3. Question: _____?
Answer: To save power.
4. Question: _____?
Answer: Thaksin Shinawatra - the Prime Minister.
5. Question: _____?
Answer: Shirt sleeves - short sleeved shirts and no jackets.
6. Question: _____?
Answer: They would need less air conditioning.
7. Question: _____?
Answer: The cabinet.
8. Question: _____?
Answer: During a long meeting.

C: True or False?

1. Business people in Thailand have been asked to come to work in shirt sleeves instead of suit jackets.
2. Wissanu Krea-ngam said that air-conditioners weren't turned on in a recent cabinet meeting.
3. The Thai government ordered all workers to stop wearing suits.
4. The government has also asked people to turn off their air-conditioners.
5. The Thai government is trying to encourage people to save energy.
6. Thai government employees usually dress formally for work.
7. Thai offices usually have air conditioners operating.

D: Language

Look at this excerpt from today's article: "*Tropical Thailand is to ask workers to stop wearing suits*"

When the verb following stop ends in -ing it means that someone ends an action.

He has stopped drinking coffee at work. Now he drinks tea. (The person doesn't drink coffee at work anymore.)

When the verb following stop is in the to + infinitive form - we know the purpose of why someone stopped. (We learn what they are going to do now they have stopped.)

On her way to work this morning she stopped to buy some sandwiches from a sandwich bar. (The person was going to work. She stopped at a shop. Her purpose in doing this was to buy some sandwiches.)

Complete the following sentences with either the -ing or the to + infinitive forms.

1. The employees stopped _____ (wear) their suit jackets in the office after they were told that the air conditioning had broken down.
2. We stopped _____ (use) the air-conditioning after agreeing to work with the windows open instead.
3. I stopped _____ (phone) the company to complain about the air-conditioning because they were hopeless. They never sent anyone to fix it.
4. When the temperature in my office got very hot I stopped my work _____ (phone) the air-conditioning engineer.
5. I have stopped the meeting _____ (allow) everyone to have a short break. You have ten minutes.
6. Sorry I can't talk now. I just stopped _____ (pick up) a cup of coffee. I've got a meeting in five minutes.
7. Would you mind if I stop _____ (have) a rest? I wish we had used the elevator instead!
8. Thaksin Shinawatra would like the people of Thailand to stop _____ (use) so much electricity.



Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Power Saving Survey

The government in Thailand wants to save power. This helps the whole planet and there are things we can all do to contribute. This survey will give you some ideas of what you could be doing to save power. Answer the questions to see how well you do in the fight to save the planet.

	yes	no
Do you turn computers off at night?		
Do you wear a sweater and socks when you are cold?		
Do you turn out the light when you are not in a room?		
Do you dry your clothes outside?		
Do you use low wattage bulbs in your house?		
Do you have long showers?		
Do you have a shower instead of a bath?		
Do you wear cool clothing in summer?		
Do you open windows when it is hot and turn off air conditioning?		
Do you give your old clothes to charitable organizations?		

If you answered 'yes' to all or most of these questions, you are doing a lot to save power! Well done!

If you answered 'no' to all or some of these questions, you could do more to help save our planet. Perhaps this list can help you think of some things you could do in the future.

B: Dress for success

Recycling is a good way to save power and resources. Below is a description of an international organization that tries to help unemployed women. They recycle business suits and work clothes that business women donate so that unemployed women may have a better chance of getting a job.

The text below describes what they do. Complete the gaps in the text.

afford, donate, get, help, including, interview, solves, training, trying, work

Dress for Success 1. _____ the "Catch-22" problem that faces women on a low-income 2. _____ to find employment: Without a job, how can you 3. _____ a suit? But without a suit, how can you 4. _____ that job? Dress for Success helps by giving each unemployed woman one suit when she has a job 5. _____ and a second suit when she gets the job. Many who help Dress for Success actually 6. _____ more than this. They also give extra silk scarves, blouses and other items appropriate for interviews. Dress for Success aims to equip a client with a sharp-looking suit to 7. _____ get the job, and then enough clothing items to mix-and-match for a week's worth of 8. _____ attire. Clients are referred to Dress for Success by government and not-for-profit agencies 9. _____ homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters and job 10. _____ programs.

Go to the web site: <http://www.dressforsuccess.org/> for more information. Find out where this organization is based, how people donate clothes and what some of their problems are.



C: Job interviews

Job interviews can be difficult things but there are certain things that you should remember to do and not to do. Work in groups of three and look at the list of ideas and strategies below.

Put an (*) if you think it is a good idea, or a bad idea. You all need to agree on the strategy and be able to explain it to the rest of the class.

Idea or strategy	Good	Bad
You wear very flattering clothes to the interview although they are a little tight and you feel uncomfortable.		
You are nervous, so you chew chewing gum in the interview.		
You sit with your arms crossed in front of you during the interview.		
You are cold so you leave your coat on during the interview.		
You look the interviewer directly in the eye when they are speaking.		
If you are offered the job, you ask for some time to think about it.		
You ask the interviewer a number of questions from a list you have prepared.		
You explain how well your special skills match up with the companies needs.		
The first questions you ask are about your salary and holidays.		
You say you were fired from you last job and that the boss was brainless.		
Use a firm handshake and smile during the introductions.		
If you don't understand a question, you just pretend you do.		
Before the interview, have a glass of wine to calm your nerves.		
You tell the interviewer you really want the job and that you could help the company.		

<http://www.dressforsuccess.org/> also has some advice for interviews.

D: Power dressing for interviews

When people go to meetings or interviews they need to impress others.

- Work in pairs.
- Your teacher will give you a worksheet.
- Follow the instructions on your worksheet.



TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Please Note: For another lesson about business meetings, try an Elementary lesson called "Sleep time". This lesson can work very well as a 'warmer' with higher level classes.

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Odd One Out - Notes

Students may disagree. Encourage them to discuss why they have selected a particular answer. The object of the activity is for students to become familiar with clothing vocabulary.

You may need to define the item 'shirt sleeves' (part of the focus of today's article) or ask students to look the word up in their dictionaries. This refers to a person wearing a shirt with no jacket over the top. The shirt would normally be a business shirt.

A: Odd One Out - Answers

T-shirt - this is not usually worn with a suit.
pajamas - you wear these to bed while the other items are worn during the day.
dressing gown - you don't wear this outside the house.
coat - the other things are worn on the beach or when it is hot.
shirt sleeves - this is a shirt (not a jacket). All the other items are types of jackets.

B: Power Dressing - Suggested answers

Answers will vary and don't allow students too much time to do this exercise.
List A - Suit jacket and trousers, tie, shirt, shoes and socks
List B - Suit jacket and skirt or trousers, blouse, stockings or panty-hose, shoes

Reading Activities

A: Summarizing - Notes

Summaries 1, 4 and 5 are incorrect. Summary 2 may be true but only by inference (dress standards may well have dropped now that public servants will not be wearing suits, but this is not mentioned in the article.)

A: Summarizing - Answer

Summary 3.

B: Comprehension - Suggested Answers

1. What is the weather/climate/temperature like in Thailand?
2. What have workers been asked to do?
3. Why have they been asked this / to stop wearing suits?
4. Who asked them to do this? Whose idea was it?
5. What have they been asked to wear to work / to arrive at work in?
6. Why have they been asked to wear this?
7. Who made this rule / resolution?
8. When might temperatures need to be lowered?

C: True or False - Answers

1. True
2. False (he said that only 4 were used instead of the normal 6)
3. False (the government has asked workers to do this, not ordered them to)
4. False (people have been asked to turn their air-conditioners down)
5. True
6. True (this must be true as otherwise there would be no reason for asking public servants to stop wearing jackets)
7. True (then they wouldn't need air-conditioners turned up so high)

D: Language - Answers

1. wearing, 2. using, 3. phoning, 4. to phone, 5. to allow, 6. to pick up, 7. to have, 8. using

Post-Reading Activities

B: Dress for success - Answers

1. solves, 2. trying, 3. afford, 4. get, 5. interview, 6. donate, 7. help, 8. work, 9. including, 10. training

C: Job Interviews - Answers

You wear very flattering clothes to the interview although they are a little tight and you feel uncomfortable. Bad
You are nervous, so you chew chewing gum in the interview. Bad
You sit with your arms crossed in front of you during the interview. Bad
You are cold so you leave your coat on during the interview. Bad
You look the interviewer directly in the eye when they are speaking. Good
If you are offered the job, you ask for some time to think about it. Good
You ask the interviewer a number of questions from a list you have prepared. Good
You explain how well your special skills match up with the company's needs. Good
The first questions you ask are about your salary and holidays. Bad
You say you were fired from your last job and that the boss was brainless. Bad
Use a firm handshake and smile during the introductions. Good
If you don't understand a question, you just pretend you do. Bad
Before the interview, have a glass of wine to calm your nerves. Bad
You tell the interviewer you really want the job and that you could help the company. Good

D: Power Dressing for Interviews - (Worksheets to be copied and given to students)

See next page.

Please Note: This lesson also has accompanying exercises for your students to do online. These can be found in the [Instant Workbook](#) section of www.english-to-go.com



Instructions for Student A

You have two pictures, Picture 1 and Picture 2.

You need to dress the model in Picture 1 appropriately for a job interview and describe what he is wearing to Student B.

1. Draw clothes suitable for a job interview on your model in Picture 1. (You can use the words from Pre-Reading Activity A to help you.) Think about the style and color of the clothes.
2. Now describe your model to Student B and they will draw what you describe.
3. Student B will now describe their model to you. Draw the clothes they describe on Picture 2. Ask Student B questions about the style and color of the clothes.



Picture 1



Picture 2

DON'T LOOK AT YOUR PARTNER'S PICTURES UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED!

Instructions for Student B

You have two pictures, Picture 1 and Picture 2 .

You need to dress the model in Picture 2 appropriately for a job interview and describe what she is wearing to Student A.

1. Draw clothes suitable for a job interview on your model in Picture 2. (You can use the words from Pre-Reading Activity A to help you.) Think about the style and color of the clothes.
2. Student A will describe their model to you. Draw the clothes they describe on Picture 2. Ask Student A questions about the style and color of the clothes.
3. Now describe your model to Student A.



Picture 1



Picture 2

DON'T LOOK AT YOUR PARTNER'S PICTURES UNTIL YOU HAVE FINISHED!