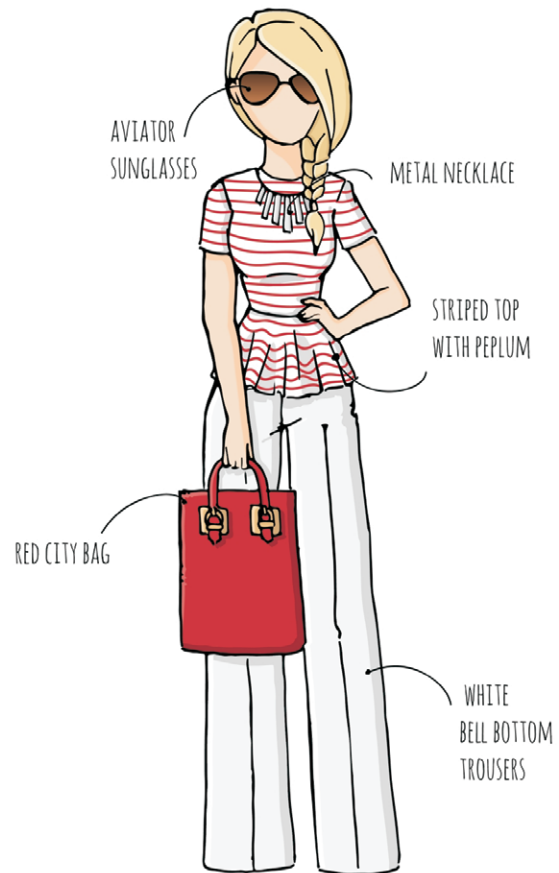


# Fashion: Accessories

**I**F YOUR WARDROBE WERE CAKE, accessories would be the icing on the cake. Accessories finish an outfit and ‘pull it together.’ Which accessories helped pull the outfit pictured here together? Do you drag along the same old purse or backpack regardless of the outfit you’re wearing? Do you ever get dressed, look in the mirror, and think something is missing? A look can go wrong as quickly as throwing on a baseball cap with a suit or forgetting to shave or get a haircut. You can learn to accessorize. Learning these skills will make it much easier for you to pull an outfit together.



## Objective:



Select accessories to enhance an outfit.

## Key Terms:



accessory  
ascot  
ballet slipper  
baseball cap  
beanie  
boater  
boots  
brogues  
bowler  
bowtie  
cap  
casual day bag  
chic tote  
chukka boot  
clutch  
cravat

cross body  
color bag  
chic tote  
fashion  
fashionistas  
Fitbit  
flat cap  
fedora  
handbag  
hat  
high-heels  
hobo bag  
iconic bag  
jelly  
jewelry  
loafers

Mary Jane  
Matchy-Matchy  
men’s bags  
mules  
necktie  
newsie  
oxfords  
Panama hat  
peep-toe  
platform shoe  
pocket square  
pocket watch  
pumps  
purse  
satchel  
scarf

shoes  
shoulder bag  
signet ring  
smartwatch

straw basket bag  
style  
suspenders  
tie clip

trend  
trapper hat

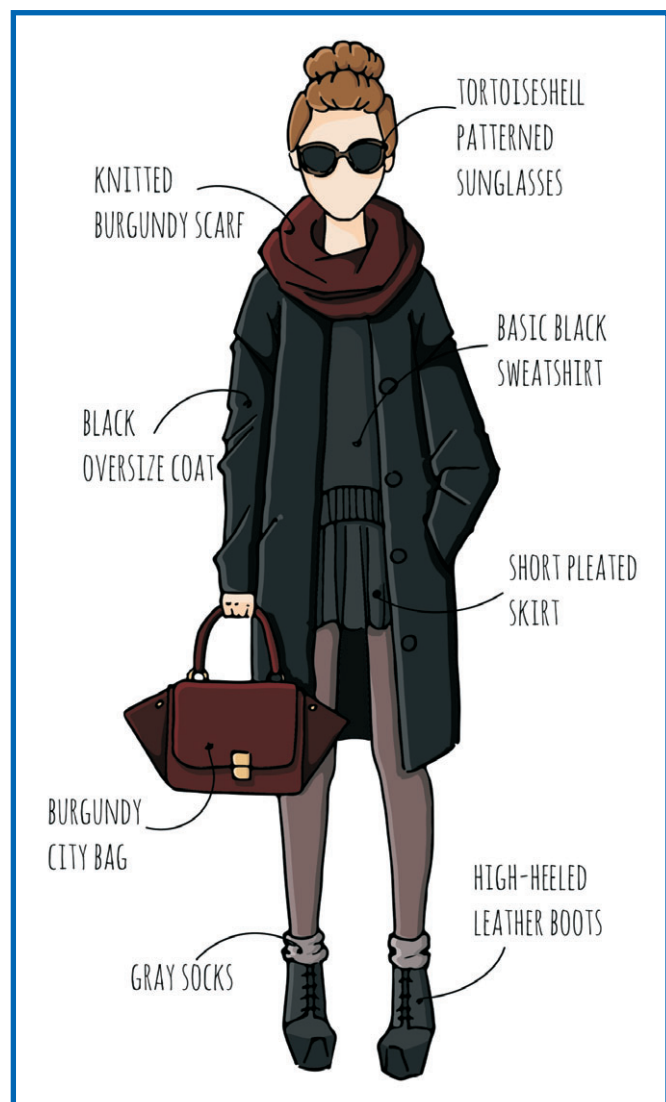
## Selecting Your Accessories

**Fashion** is a popular trend of a particular style or practice of clothing, footwear, accessories, or other forms of adornment at a given time. Change is a constant element of fashion: new styles, reinventing a classic, and styles popularized by celebrities and royalty. Many definitions of fashion also point out that fashionable items are those accepted by many people and that fashion lasts for a fairly short amount of time.

**Style** is an individual's artistic approach to expressing themselves through what they wear. Style line categories that influence the silhouette include: necklines, collars, seams, sleeves, cuffs, and pockets.

A **trend** is a fashion style that is popular at a specific point in time that gradually changes over an extended time. Fashion trends are new and innovative ways to provoke a style. Trends may include one or more of the following: color, fabrics, textures, materials, prints, graphics, accessories, footwear, or even a particular style (e.g., classic, grunge, punk, artsy, etc.). So, to get the fashion look one wants, requires defining fashion, style, and trend for oneself. Accessories are the details that often "cement" a person's fashion "look."

An **accessory** is ornamentation that helps create a fashion look. There are two main categories of fashion accessories: ones that are worn and ones that are carried. A list of accessories usually includes belts, neckwear, legwear, headwear, gloves, sunglasses, jewelry, and watches. Many accessories serve a purpose: a handbag



**FIGURE 1.** There are two main categories of fashion accessories: ones that are worn and ones that are carried. Which worn and which carried accessories helped pull this look together?

holds a phone, wallet, make-up, keys, etc. and sunglasses prevent glare when driving or walking. Accessories also enhance an outfit's "look" by completing an element of the outfit: the perfect scarf or tie that pulls a look together or just the right piece of jewelry to finish the appearance of a business suit. Wearing accessories well is something that is learned. Seven basic tips for wearing accessories well include:

1. Wear a few well-chosen accessories at a time.
2. Pair bold accessories with understated clothing.
3. Avoid clothing and accessories being too "**Matchy-Matchy**" (any overly coordinated color, fabric, pattern, or texture).
4. Wear accessory items that "play up" one color in an outfit.
5. Balance the size of accessory pieces.
6. Choose items that enhance one's features.
7. Use bold makeup as an accessory.

## WOMEN'S ACCESSORIES

---

### Handbags

A **handbag** is a small piece of luggage with a handle or straps used to carry everyday personal items and perhaps small packages. A **purse** is a small bag, pouch, or pocketbook usually for carrying money. [NOTE: Many fashion glossary sources equate the terms handbag and purse.] Women began carrying handbags partly because their clothing had fewer pockets than did men's clothing. Classic handbag styles are:

- ◆ A **satchel** is a handbag carried on the shoulder by a long strap and typically closed by a flap. Satchels are the "workhorses" of handbags. Their original purpose was to carry books and today they also carry laptops, tablets, etc. The strap can be worn diagonally across the body with the bag hanging on the opposite hip. Most satchels are purchased in a neutral color that doesn't easily show scuffs and stains. Satchels with minimal hardware help keep the piece timeless. However, most timeless pieces are a bit costly.
- ◆ A **clutch** is a strapless handbag/purse carried in the hand. A day clutch is generally plain in décor and more casual while a night clutch may be sequined or beaded. The day clutch is made to carry the basics and comes in a variety of sizes. It is not meant to carry everything you need for the week just what you need for one event. The night clutch is most versatile (used in more seasons) if purchased in black satin or in a metallic tone.
- ◆ A **cross body** is a handbag worn on one side of the body with the strap looped over the other shoulder. They are great for travel as they are more difficult for a pickpocket to steal things. Cross body bags also allow the traveler to keep their hands free.

## Women bags icons

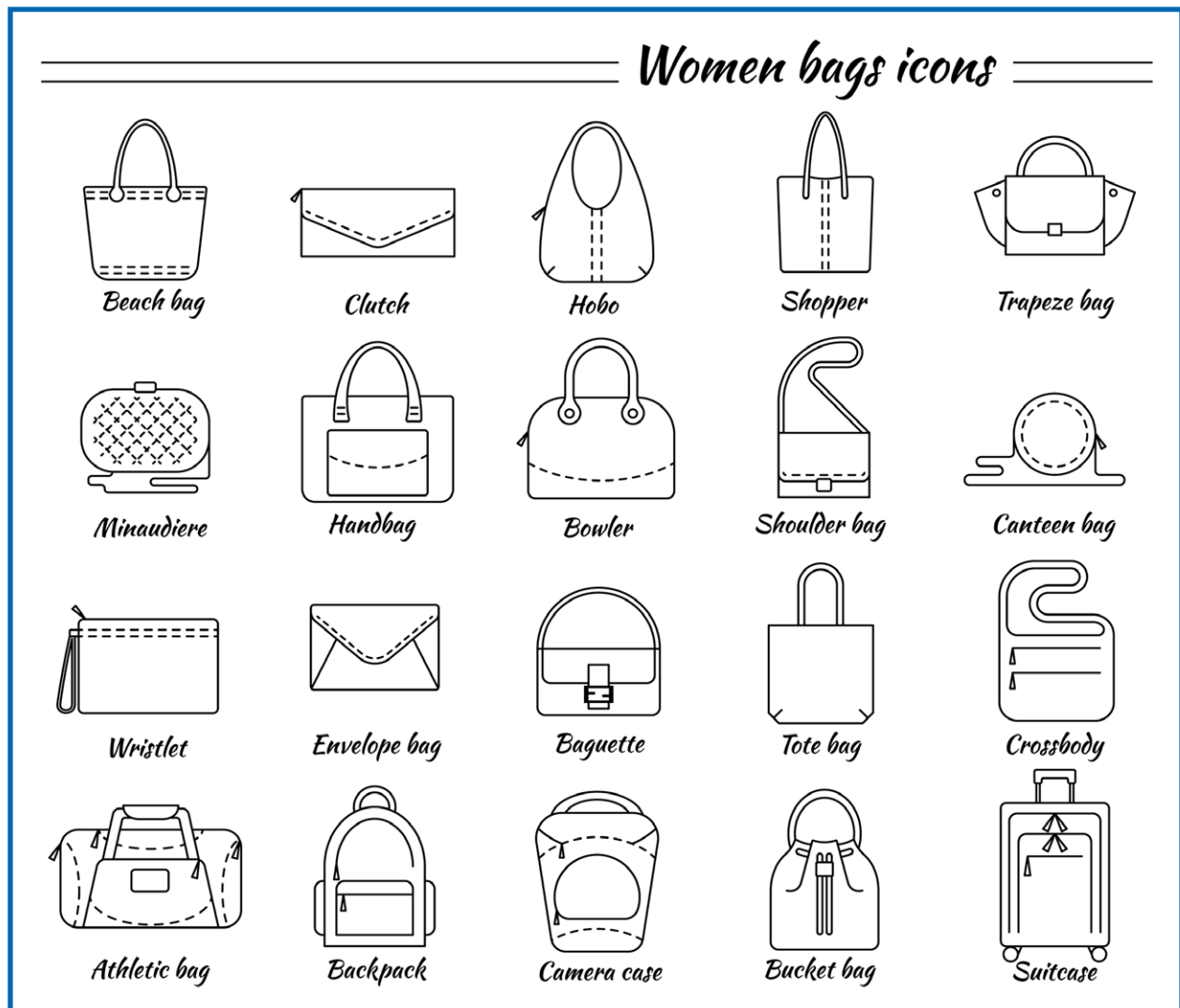


FIGURE 2. Which handbag is your favorite? Why?

- ◆ The **straw basket bag** is a summer or warmer climate handbag that made of straw or grass-like products. Many straw basket bags are large for use at the beach or for shopping and other activities.
- ◆ The **shoulder bag** (medium sized) is a handbag carried on the shoulder with a long strap. It is what many consider to be a “purse.” The shoulder bag is often made from leather and gives a sleek, sophisticated look while still looking sporty and fun. This is the perfect day bag: choosing one that suits a person’s personal style, taste, and budget is important.
- ◆ A **casual day bag** is a handbag very similar to the medium-sized shoulder bag except it is carried by handles rather than straps. Many women carry the casual day bag to work and it is available in lots of options, colors, patterns, and style. More than one casual bag can be found in most closets. The **hobo bag** is a type of casual day bag named after the “bindle” sack, a piece of cloth tied on a stick carried over the shoulder by cartoon “hobos.”

- ◆ The **iconic bag** is a designer handbag that never goes out of style. For example: CHANEL CLASSIC, LOUIS VUITTON monogram bag, LADY DIOR, and others. Most women have one or two special bags that are a bit costly. The CHANEL CLASSICS's price tag (at this writing) is over \$5,000. Many younger **fashionistas** (fashion followers) find KATE SPADE a likely "iconic bag" that comes at an affordable price.
- ◆ A **color bag** is an accent handbag in a bold color that enhances an outfit. It isn't the typical black or tan purse. If wearing a camel, black, white, or navy outfit one might choose a red bag to update the style: color adds pop (fun) to the outfit.
- ◆ A **chic tote** is a large, often unfastened handbag similar in styling to a shopping bag and can be carried by its handles or over a shoulder. The chic tote is often made of canvas and carries shopping items in a stylish way.



FIGURE 3. Which iconic handbag is pictured here? (Image courtesy Wikipedia at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Burberry\\_handbag.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Burberry_handbag.jpg))

## Jewelry

**Jewelry** is personal adornments, such as earrings, bracelets, necklaces, pins, and rings, made from gold, silver, precious stones, etc. Jewelry choices are typically based on the occasion. For example, wearing diamond jewelry to work at a construction site or food service kitchen is atypical. Jewelry purchases that mix and match well together, double the use. Purchasers should consider wardrobe necklines and sleeve lengths when shopping for jewelry. It's easy to select jewelry that is too Matchy-Matchy to an outfit. Instead, consider making a bold choice to accent the outfit rather than match it. Piercings are also considered accessories. A few basic tips for wearing jewelry well include:

- ◆ TIP #1: The busier the outfit the simpler the jewelry.
- ◆ TIP #2: Jewelry can bring pieces of the outfit together. For example a black dress with yellow shoes can have a more together look if the jewelry is yellow too.
- ◆ TIP #3: Make one piece of jewelry the focal point: the rest are used to accent the focal point.
- ◆ TIP #4: Bracelet metals can be matched today: mixing gold, silver, and copper together is an artsy statement.

- ◆ **TIP #5:** Studs are often the first earring purchases as they “go” with most outfits. Then, match earring length with neck length. Earrings should not sit on your shoulder and should frame your face.
- ◆ **TIP #6:** Choose a necklace that compliments the outfit and personal style. A necklace is not needed if the outfit has an embellished neckline.
- ◆ **TIP #7:** Rings should flatter your hands.



**FIGURE 4.** Match earring length with your neck length. Earrings should not sit on your shoulder and should frame your face.

## Shoes

Shoes are outer foot coverings that protect and comfort the foot. In fashion, shoes from past decades return with just a little change here and there. Historically the average person owned a pair of work shoes and a pair of dress shoes, but today most people have a variety of shoes for a variety of activities. Socks and hosiery are also accessories. Classic shoe styles include:

- ◆ **Mary Jane** is the American term for a popular closed, low-cut shoe with one or more straps. The heels on a Mary Jane can be flat or higher.
- ◆ **Mules** are shoes or slippers with no back or constraint around the heel. The mule is worn internationally and the BIRKENSTOCK brand is a popular example.
- ◆ Dress shoes are a formal foot covering called a pump, heel, or flat. The **pump** is a shoe without fastenings and a low cut front and without fastenings.
- ◆ The **jelly** is a slip on shoe made of semitransparent, glitter infused PVC plastic. Jellies were a fad in the 80's that has been revised and returned to fashion many times.
- ◆ **High-heels** are shoes that raise the heel of the foot higher than the toes: a feminine look. High-heels draw attention to the legs making them appear longer and the foot smaller. Heel heights vary and anyone wearing high-heels must practice walking and find a height that is workable for them.
- ◆ An athletic shoe is the generic name for foot covers designed for sporting activities. Today, athletic shoes are considered casual wear and many non-athletes wearing them. Athletic shoes come in a variety of brands and many customers are drawn to one brand over another due to the fit.
- ◆ Western wear is usually a cowboy boot with a Cuban heel and round toe. The cowboy boot has a high shaft. The average woman's closet will have one pair.



**FIGURE 5.** How many pair of shoes do you own? Which styles do you own?

- ◆ A **peep-toe** is a woman's shoe (a pump, sling back, or other styles) with an opening at the toe box that allows the toes to show. Peep-toes were popular in the 40's and returned in the 60's and many times since. Today the new look for the peep toe is found in low boots.
- ◆ A **ballet slipper** is a lightweight, round-toed shoe with a flat heel resembling the shoes worn by ballet dancers.
- ◆ A **platform shoe** is a foot covering in which both the heel and toe are raised. This shoe is found in a variety of styles.

## Headwear

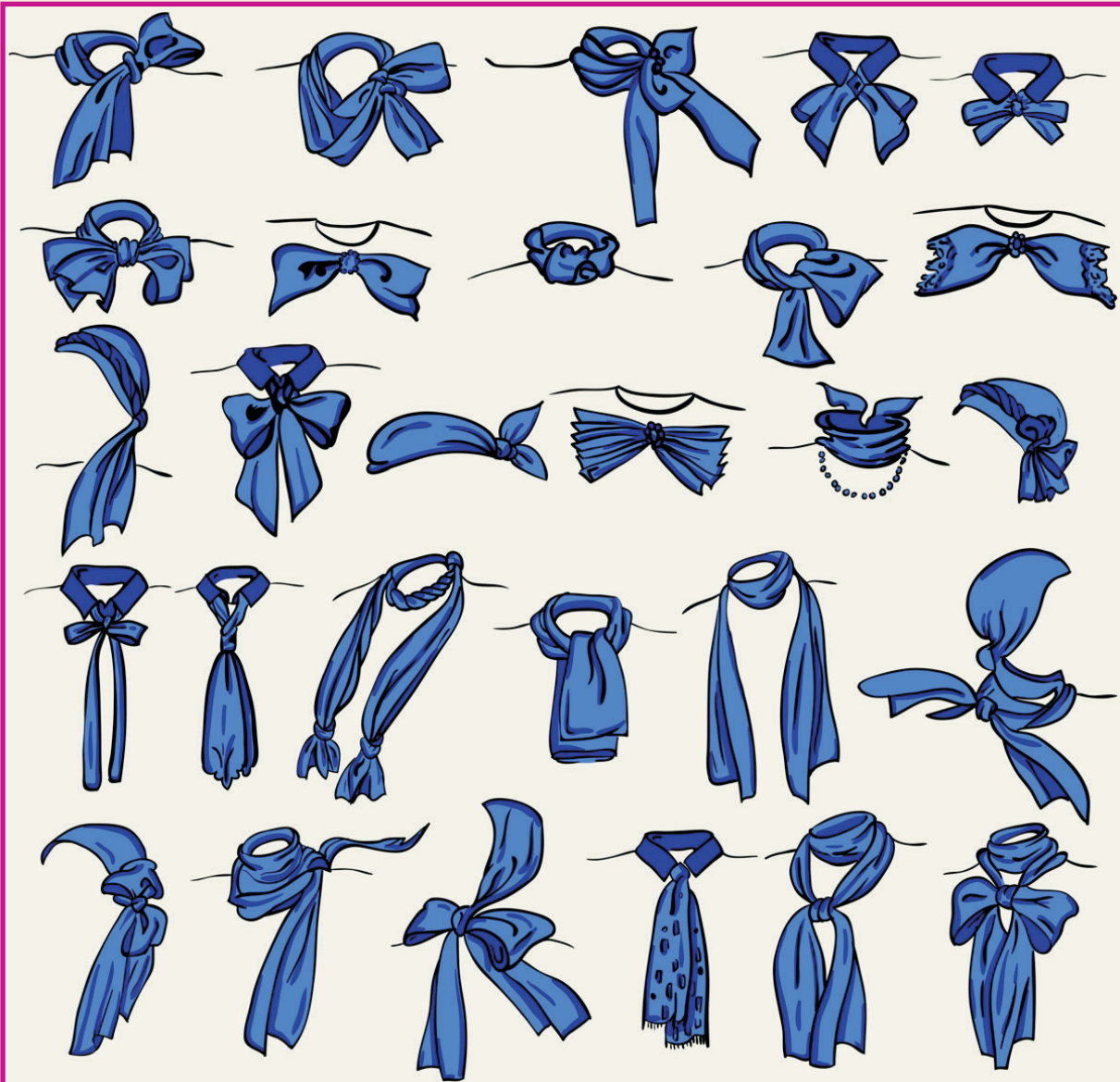
Headwear is any piece of clothing worn on one's head: hats, caps, scarves, etc. Headwear is generally worn to protect the wearer from the weather, cold, or heat. A **hat** is a head cover with a shaped crown and brim. A **cap** is a head covering with a visor and no brim especially for sporting events. Some caps and beanies are now fitted with Bluetooth. A **scarf** is a rectangle, triangle, or long narrow piece of cloth worn around the head, neck, or shoulders. Shawls



## FURTHER EXPLORATION...

### ONLINE CONNECTION: 25 Ways to Tie a Scarf

Watch the YouTube video, “25 Ways to Tie a Scarf in 4 Minutes,” at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LYAEz777AU>. This is a simple tutorial that shows a variety of ways to expand your wardrobe using one fairly low cost accessory. Practice makes perfect so don't expect to learn these techniques and remember them all in one watching. Practice until you are skillful tying scarves.



A scarf is a rectangle, triangle, or long narrow piece of cloth worn around the head, neck, or shoulders. Shawls can also be tied in many of the same ways as scarves and they are a bit more dramatic.

and muffs are also considered accessories. A few basic tips for selecting and wearing headwear well include:

- ◆ TIP #1: Adding hats to an accessory wardrobe make a statement.
- ◆ TIP #2: Fit is essential for all hats and caps.
- ◆ TIP #3: Avoid hats that are too large.
- ◆ TIP #4: Hats must fit the wearer's face shape.
- ◆ TIP #5: Learn various ways to tie scarves. (Online sites provide "how to" directions for scarf tying.)

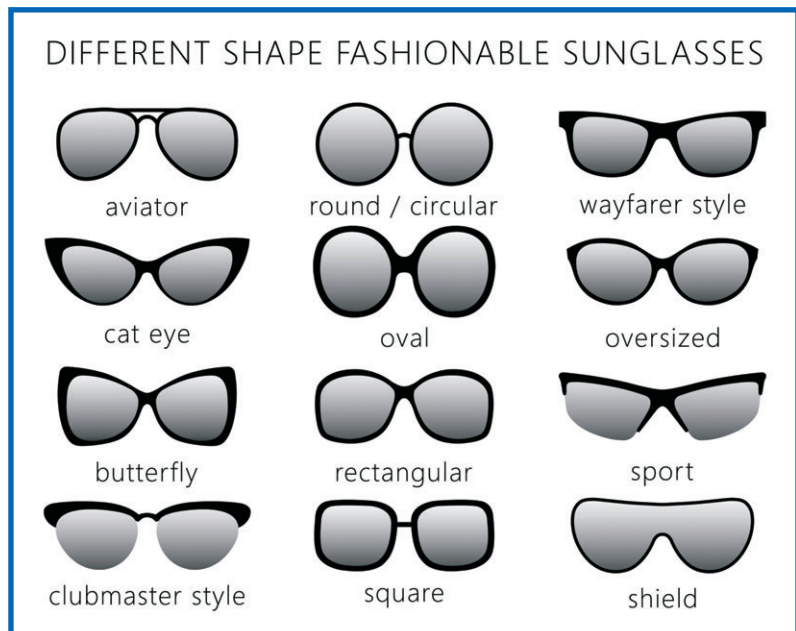
## Other Accessories

**SUNGLASSES:** Sunglasses are frames and lenses that protect the eyes from the sun. Sunglasses come in a variety of frame styles, lens colors, and can be purchased in prescription form. Styles include: aviator/pilot, butterfly, cat-eye, classic, oval, or rectangular.

**BELTS:** A belt is a band of flexible material—typically leather or cord—that encircles the waist and secures pants, coats, and dresses. Most first-time belt purchases are of average width and in black or tan. Belts are worn over fitted tunics, underneath a cardigan for a more fitted look, or belted over a dress with no waistline. Belts are purchased two or three sizes larger than the pants (e.g., waistline) in order to easily buckle it over clothing. As an accessory, a wide belt is used to pull together a look and a variety of belts are accessories that liven up and accent an outfit.

**GLOVES:** Gloves are a shaped covering for the hand with individual sheaths for fingers and thumbs. Gloves are made of leathers, natural fabrics, nylon and acetate fabrics, metals, etc. based on the intended use. Today, gloves are generally used for protection against the weather but some are still used with formal wear.

**WATCHES:** A watch is a portable timepiece worn (as on the wrist) or carried in the pocket. The purpose of any watch is to know the time. However, with the increase in cell phones most people keep time on their phone. Wristwatches come in a wide variety of sizes and colors and change style with fashion trends. They are available as delicate feminine accessories and as large,



**FIGURE 6.** Choosing the style that accentuates one's face shape is key to making sunglasses a key accessory.

bold accessories. Today's watches are mainly for adornment or are used to enhance a look. Watches are also a popular form of wearable technology today.

**WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY:** **Wearable technology** is a blanket term for technology that can be worn on the body, either as an accessory or as a part of material used in clothing. Today's wearable technology include the following that also provide the time:

- ◆ A **smartwatch** is a wearable computer in the form of a wristwatch. is a Fitbit or the watch used in place of a phone would be the Apple Watch.
- ◆ A **Fitbit** is a popular watch made to track and record health facts: steps walked and/or climbed, heart rate, and sleep quality.
- ◆ A health monitor or other niche devices are used to improve performance in a specific sport.

**HAIR AND GROOMING:** Hair accessories, haircuts and styling, grooming, nails and make-up help create a finished and polished look.

## MEN'S ACCESSORIES

---

Men's furnishing stores and departments sell small dry goods and accessories such as ties, watches, shoes, socks, gloves, bags, wallets, briefcases, and backpacks, underwear, sunglasses, pajamas, robes, belts, and hats. A well-dressed man carefully selects his accessories. Accessories are key to 'finishing' a man's outfit and are often the element most noticed: a tie, a pocket square, a hat, etc. Focusing on a few accessories can take an "OK" look to a higher level. Accessorizing is a learned skill and well worth the time.

### Bags

**Men's bags** are sturdy carryalls to store belongings: backpacks, messenger bags, shoulder bags, and duffels. They are statement makers in that the bag provides a strong first impression to the viewer: leather briefcase signals "success" and backpacks signal "active or busy." A wallet is a pocket-sized, flat, folding holder for money and plastic cards; sometimes called a billfold. A wallet that is stylish lets everyone know that the owner pays attention to detail. It is important to find the right wallet for each person. Small goods and satchels are pieces most men consider to be an investment in the future.

### Jewelry

Men's jewelry pieces are typically stylish and masculine and made from a mix of material and colors. Jewelry should not appear gaudy: the simpler the better.

- ◆ A **tie clip** is a piece of ornamental jewelry that secures the tie to the shirt's front to prevent the tie from swinging. A tie slide, tie clasp and tie bar all do the same job as the tie clip.

- ◆ Earrings are worn by some men and have become more popular as piercing of any type is more popular.
- ◆ Men's rings are often simple: a wedding ring or a signet ring. A **signet ring** is jewelry carved with initials or a family or organizational symbol. Some signet rings indicate membership with a sports team.
- ◆ Bracelets have been a fashion statement at various times in history and vary from leather bands, braided cord, wooden beads, and metallic cuffs.
- ◆ Cuff-links are a device, often decorative, that fastens together the two sides of a shirt cuff. Until the 60's and 70's, when men's wardrobes became more casual, cufflinks were a part of every man's wardrobe.

## Shoes

Men's shoes come in a wide, ever changing, variety of styles. A men's shoe wardrobe typically contains the following classic styles:

- ◆ **Brogues** are lace-up leather dress shoes with a perforated design. Brogues were originally utilitarian shoes and the perforations were for draining water away from the foot. The brogue can be used for casual dress: the half brogue is a popular style in which the toe-cap has perforations but no holes on the wings.
- ◆ A **chukka boot** is a plain round-toe, ankle-high shoe with two or three lacing eyelets, and little embellishment. Chukkas have been popular many times in recent years.
- ◆ A **boot** is footwear (technically not a shoe) that covers the foot, ankle, and in some cases the lower calf and leg. Leather boots are a staple of men's wardrobes and the height and heel style are personal preferences. Boots are available in many styles: lace-up, zip-up, or pull-on. Western wear boots are the footwear of choice for many and have become a part of casual wear in the last decades.
- ◆ White low-top trainers are a casual, yet net look for today's man. Other athletically inclined shoes, such as running shoes, are popular in men's wardrobes today.
- ◆ **Loafers** are moccasin-style slip-on shoes with a slotted strap at the front. Loafers are part of the preppy look and a mainstay of casual dress. A pair of brown loafers is appropriate wear for casual and some formal occasions.
- ◆ **Oxfords** are a basic shoe style that lace shut or use an alternate closure. The design was originally very plain but today can include a wide range of details.

## Headwear

Hats are a formal type of headwear with a shaped crown and variations in the sizes and shapes of the brims. Men who wear fashionable hats want those hats to look great on them.

- ◆ A **fedora** is a low, soft felt hat with a curled brim and a crown creased lengthwise. Fedoras were popular in the 20's and 50's and returned again in the 2000's.

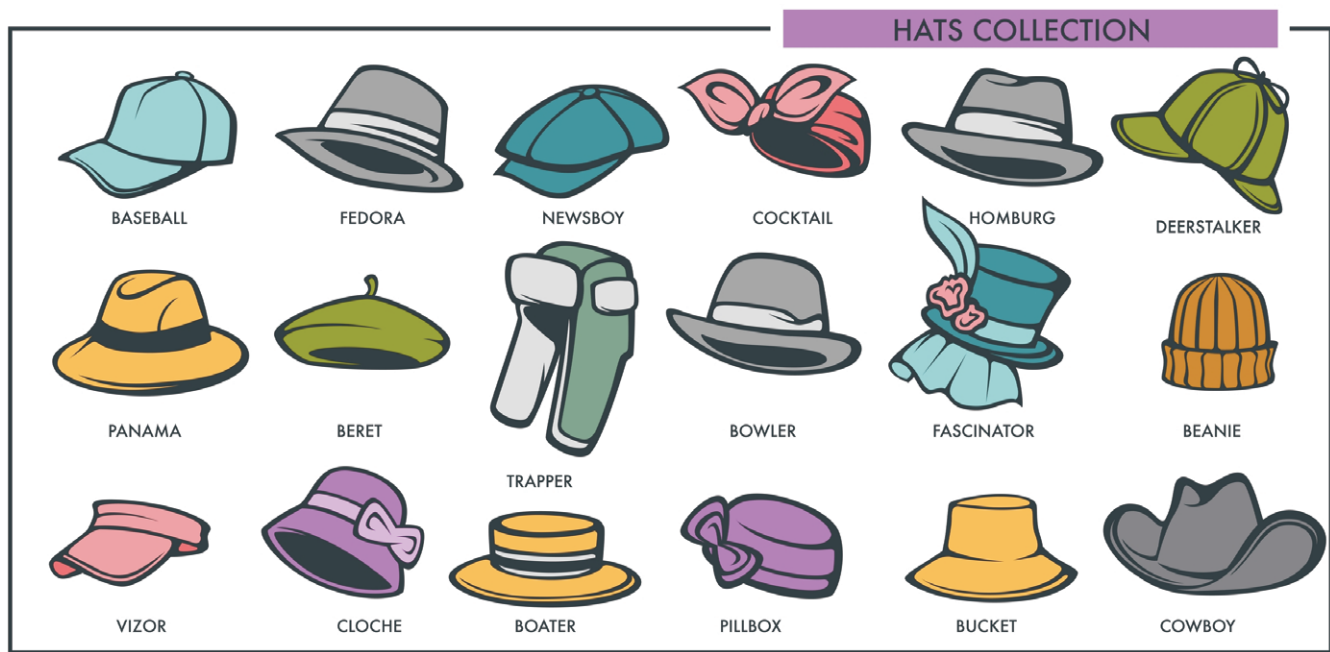


FIGURE 7. These classic hats and caps are common accessory selections.

- ◆ A **Panama hat** is a wide-brimmed head covering of straw-like material, originally from the leaves of a tropical palm tree.
- ◆ A **bowler** is a hard felt hat with a round dome-shaped crown.
- ◆ A **boater** is a flat-topped hardened straw hat with a brim.
- ◆ A **trapper hat** is a fur or winter fabric head covering worn for warmth and has earflaps attached. (Think Duluth Trading Company and Dick's Sporting Goods.)

Caps are a relaxed type headwear as compared to a hat. They keep the head warm and have had a place in fashion for many years.

- ◆ A **flat cap** is a rounded head covering with a small stiff brim in front; sometimes called a driving cap.
- ◆ A **newsie** is a casual-wear cap similar in style to the flat cap with the body of the newsie being sounder, fuller, and paneled with a button attaching the front to the brim. The hats are called newsies because paperboys who called out the news wore them.
- ◆ A **beanie** is a close-fitting cap usually knitted. Beanies protect against the weather and are currently worn in all seasons.
- ◆ A **baseball cap** is a fabric head covering with a large brim and an adjustable strap at the back. Although athletes originally wore these caps, they are popular for everyone today.



## FURTHER EXPLORATION...

### ONLINE CONNECTION: How to Tie a Tie—Real Simple

Watch the YouTube video, “How to Tie a Tie—Real Simple,” at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xmnv1RVQCRO>. Practice the steps using a man’s long tie until you have perfected the technique. It is important for both men and woman to learn to tie a tie.

### Neckwear

A **necktie** is a band of decorative fabric worn around the neck under the collar and tied in front of a shirt or in a small bow. Neckties are often required office or formal wear attire. They are one of the men’s furnishings most often sold with a business or formal suit. Tie widths, colors, and patterns change based on current fashion influences. Long ties are most popular today and are tied in four main knots:

- ◆ 4-in-hand
- ◆ Pratt
- ◆ Windsor
- ◆ Half Windsor

A **bowtie** is a short necktie tied in a bowknot. Bowties come and go in popularity and continue to reoccur based on fashion trends.

An **ascot** is a broad neck scarf that is looped under the chin. Ascot’s are used for formal attire or to add some formality to a casual look.

A **cravat** is a band or scarf worn around the neck. Cravats were the forerunner to the necktie.

### Other Accessories

**BELTS:** A belt is a band of flexible material—typically leather or cord—that encircles the waist and secures pants and coats. Most first-time belt purchases are of average width and in black or tan. Belts are purchased two or three sizes larger than the pants (e.g., waistline) in order to easily buckle it over clothing.

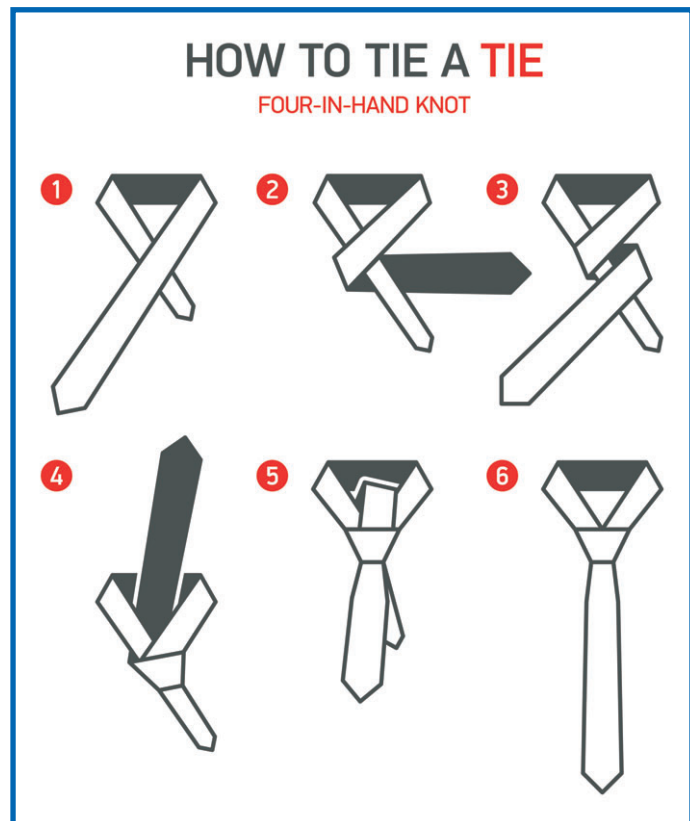


FIGURE 8. These are the steps to tying the classic 4-in-hand knot.

**SUNGLASSES:** Sunglasses are the only accessories some men are comfortable wearing after the belt. Sunglasses should be chosen to fit a man's face shape. Styles include: aviator or pilot, butterfly, rectangle, round, shield, square, wayfarer wrap, and double bridge. All of these styles have been fashionable at one time or another and all stay in fashion to some degree.

**WATCHES:** Wristwatches range in price from inexpensive to extremely expensive and can reveal the financial success of a man. Men's wristwatches, like women's, come in a variety of shapes and sizes and have also moved into the world of wearable technology. A **pocket watch** is a timepiece that fits in a trouser pocket and hangs from a fob and/or chain.



**FIGURE 9.** Many pocket watches are family heirlooms passed to the next family member.

**SUSPENDERS:** **Suspenders** are a pair of straps that pass over the shoulders and fasten to the waistband of a pair of trousers at the front and back to hold the trousers in place.

**POCKET SQUARES:** A **pocket square** is a folded piece of fabric—silk or lightweight cotton or linen—placed into a jacket's breast pocket. Pocket squares are primarily for show and add some elegance to the look. Pocket squares should be small enough to fold without creating any bulk. The rule of thumb is that the tie and pocket square should not match exactly; instead, the two accessory colors should complement each other.

**HAIR AND GROOMING:** A haircut and styling and the careful grooming of nails and facial hair help create a finished and polished look. To find his best look a man can speak with a barber or beautician for ideas. Other options for ideas are men's magazines, such as GQ, and Internet websites devoted to men's fashion and grooming.

## Summary:



Learning to accessorize is an important skill that improves your general appearance, confidence, and 'finishes' your look. Learning to accessorize well is a skill and anyone can learn. Practicing with accessories, being aware of how others use them, recognizing the differences in accessories, becoming acquainted with different types,

and spending some time researching in brick and mortar and online stores and websites are great ways to enhance your skill of accessorizing an outfit.

### Checking Your Knowledge:

---



1. List 5 tips to wear accessories well.
2. How would you use color in an accessory to add pop to a basic outfit?
3. Describe the appeal of an iconic handbag.
4. Differentiate between handbags, purses, and men's bags.
5. What part does hair and grooming play in 'finishing' your look?

### Expanding Your Knowledge:

---



Take a trip to the mall or your favorite brick and mortar store. Spend your shopping time in the accessories department: men's furnishings, women's handbags and hats, hosiery and underwear, sunglasses, etc. Find one accessory that you could buy for a reasonable amount that would make an impact on your 'finished' look. You may be surprised by the amount of space dedicated to accessories. Make a list and/or take a picture of your three top accessory additions to your wardrobe. Note the cost of each item. Back home, go to your clothing wardrobe and see how many outfits each of your accessory selections could impact positively.

### Web Links:

---



#### **10 Tips That Will Help You to Accessorize Like a Pro**

<https://totalimageconsultants.com/blog/2018/02/19/10-tips-will-help-accessorize-like-pro/>

#### **Men's Accessories Matter: Here's What You Need to Know**

<https://www.cheatsheet.com/gear-style/why-mens-accessories-matter.html/>

#### **The Secret to Making Any Outfit Amazing**

<https://www.collegefashion.net/fashion-tips/the-secret-to-making-any-outfit-amazing/>

#### **Why is the Manbag on the Rise?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-43069633>

#### **Women's Shoe Styles Guide: The Low Down On Types of Ladies Footwear**

<https://mychicstyle19.com/womensshoes/fashion.php>