

1. Which of these articles are probably from a newspaper?
2. Which article will . . .
  - talk about men's clothing in history?
  - discuss high school students?
  - talk about work clothes?
3. Which articles mention specific kinds of clothing?
4. Write a question that you think each article may answer.

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## Read It

Read the articles. Look for the answers to your questions.



### READING 1

## Designed to Fit In

Go to the mall and look at the young teenagers. Many of them are wearing the same clothes. As an adult, you might think, "Why do they want to look identical?"

"Wearing the *right* clothes is very important for young teenagers, especially girls," says Kathleen Jackson from Delmar Hunt School in Lincoln, Nebraska. "Looking right means fitting in."

"It's a sign of normal child development," Mrs. Jackson says. "Young teenagers are starting to separate from their parents, and they want to fit in with their friends. Dressing alike is one way to do that."

Dr. Adam Robb, a psychiatrist at Emory University, calls this *peer group identity*. Before forming their own identity, teenagers become part of a group to feel accepted and secure. He says, "Teenagers judge each other all the

**Fashion: You mean you're wearing *THAT*?**

time. In many schools, one of the ways you fit in is to look like everyone else—you wear the *right* skirt or pants or carry the *right* backpack.”

Fashion can be a lot of fun, but it has another side, too. Sometimes the pressure of dressing in a certain way creates problems, especially in families with no money for expensive clothes. Some schools have found a solution to this problem. They have a dress code or make students wear uniforms. “Students were laughed at if they didn’t have the right clothes. That’s not a good atmosphere for learning, so we started a dress code. That ended the fashion race,” Mrs. Jackson says. “It really stopped the teasing and conflicts.”



## READING 2

### New Exhibit on Men’s Skirts Opens at the Metropolitan Museum

Throughout Western history, women have borrowed men’s clothing. Women wear pants, ties, and even men’s suits. However, men have rarely worn women’s clothing. One of the strongest taboos is against men wearing skirts. Skirts are considered inappropriate for men. A new exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art called “Bravehearts: Men in Skirts” looks at this question.

David Thorndike, sociologist at the Modern Social Research Institute, says, “Men think if they wear a skirt, they will look feminine. That is absurd. Roman gladiators were very masculine and they wore skirts.” He continues, “At one time, only men wore pants. However, today pants are unisex clothes. They are appropriate for both men and women. Women wear them all the time. If a man wants to wear masculine clothing, he should put on a real Scottish kilt.”

The exhibit has examples of men’s skirts in history. In addition, there are a number of skirts from well-known clothing designers. There is even a photograph of movie star Brad Pitt in a skirt. One male visitor said, “That skirt looks really comfortable. If Brad Pitt can wear it, why can’t I?”

The exhibit will continue through February 8.

