**21. Clothing, Fashion**

1. The influence of weather and climate on what people wear
2. Clothes and accessories for various occasions
3. How people decide what to wear (fashion, age, mood/atmosphere, possibilities) care of clothes
4. Fashion trends – clothes, designers, fashion shows
5. Fine feathers make fine birds/clothes make the man, mate-to-measure/tailor-made clothing/tailored clothing or mass-producing clothing (in the clothes shop, at the tailor’s/dressmaker’s)

FASHION – is the style of dress or behaviour (správanie) that is common (spoločné, bežné) or popular at a certain time.

Many people, mostly women, are interested in fashion. New styles, materials, shapes (tvary) and patterns (vzory) appear (sa objavujú), last (trvajú) for a certain time, disappear (miznú) and later (neskôr) come back a little bit changed. Many young people are fashion-conscious (uvedomujúci si) and try to follow the latest trends in fashion, watching fashion shows and reading fashion magazines.

Fashion styles change quite (dosť) often. In 1960s women started to shorten their skirts and mini-skirts were popular for a long period. Narrow (úzke) trousers were replaced by wide trousers and flat (ploché, rovné) shoes by high-heeled shoes (platforms). But pumps (lodičky) and office shoes are still “in”. Nowadays girls like to wear balerinas shoes, pumps, in summer flip-flops and sandals. Later women realized (uvedomili si) that longer skirts are more practical and narrow trousers are sexier. But wide trousers have made a comeback and are fashionable (módne) again.

The materials used are important and each fabric (každá látka) has its own special qualities. Almost everything our grandparents used to wear was made of canvas (plátno), then cotton, but later those textiles were replaced by synthetic fibres (vlákna). People return to cotton for its natural qualities, while silk (hodvábne) blouses and shirts are appropriate for special occasions (príležitosti). T-shirts used to all be 100% cotton, but today many include spandex.

A person’s choice (voľba, výber) of suitable (vhodný) clothing is also influenced by climate and weather. In colder countries, people prefer to wear clothes which protect their body from the cold. They usually wear fur coats, boots and fur caps (anoraks, scarves, gloves, thick coats) in winter. In hot countries, people put on light (ľahké) clothes, use materials which allow sweat (pot) to evaporate (vyparovať sa) and cool their bodies, straw hats (slamené klobúky) protect their heads against the sun’s rays (lúče).

Casual clothes (bežné oblečenie) are worn for everyday purposes (účely). People working in banks and offices are usually more dressed up (viac vyfintení): men in suits, shirts in different colours, ties and suitable shoes, mostly black or brown leather. Women wear suits too, fashionable tops or blouses, various accessories (doplnky – necklace, earrings, bracelet) and leather shoes. For special occasions (balls, special dinners, theatre performance), we usually put on something more formal: long dresses or gowns (róba) for the ladies and tuxedos (Am; smoking), dinner jackets (Br), bow-ties (motýliky) and patent leather shoes for the men. Official ceremonies require that people wear gowns or robes, long loose (voľné) usually black outer garments (odev) worn by judges, lawyers and members of universities.

Most people prefer buying clothes in shops because if they suit them and fit, they just pay and leave. Some women like clothes made by dressmakers or they make them themselves. If men need suits or coats, they ask tailors to make these outer garments for them.

Coats and other clothing made of fur (vyrobené z kožušiny) are very expensive, and in the past people wore furs to show that they were rich. In many countries today, however, many people think that it is cruel to kill animals for their fur and choose to wear fake fur (imitáciu kožužiny) instead.

**Colours** play an important role in fashion. White is a typical colour for babies to wear when they are christened (krstené) and brides dress in white for church weddings because white represents purity (čistotu) and virginity (panenskosť). In some old stories and films, especially westerns, the good guy always wears white and the bad guy wears black. A baby’s sex is sometimes distinguished (odlíšený) by colours: little girls are dressed in pink and red, while little boys are in blue or light-green. Today, people like to have a free choice. Some colours suit some people more than others so people can be classified by the colours they wear “cold” and “warm” while cold types prefer darker colours (grey, navy blue, grey-blue, black, etc.) brighter colours are suitable for warm types (spring and autumn types: beige, cream white, light-blue, brown, etc.) some people choose colours according to their current mood. When they are happy, the colours are bright (jasné) and light (svetlé), but when they are sad or bad-tempered (v zlej nálade), the colours are dark.

How does weather and climate influence fashion? How would you dress for a theatre performance/school/wedding?

How do you care of your clothes? (dry cleaner, label, ironing, washing at cold temperature, not bleaching..)

What fashion designers/fashion shows do you know? Do you think they influence the way people dress?

Give pros and cons of machine-made and tailor/dressmaker-made clothes, compare them.

What do you know about history of jeans? What do people communicate by the clothes they wear? How has fashion changed in the last few years? What kind of clothing is always appropriate and stylish?