



Can you describe these costumes?



Weekly English Practice



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English
Coaching
Projects S.Coop.

weeklyenglishpractice.wordpress.com

www.englishcoachingprojects.net
info@englishcoachingprojects.net

Calle San Ignacio de Loyola 15 bajo
01001, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba-Alava

Why do we love wearing fancy dress*?

Men are now spending more money on fancy dress than women. Is it all an attempt to hide our shyness behind a mask?

* **fancy dress**: unusual or funny costume or clothes
outrageous: used to describe something or someone that is shocking because they are unusual or strange
to mock: to laugh at someone
rummaging: to search for something by moving things around carelessly and looking into, under, and behind them
blurred: unable to see clearly
campness: 'to be camp' is to be ostentatiously effeminate
traits: a particular characteristic that can produce a particular type of behaviour
to pretend: to participate in an imaginative activity

Attend a **fancy dress** party these days and you'll notice times have changed: where once men would self-consciously make an absolute minimum of effort – a mask, perhaps a “funny” tie – they'll now be in colourful, **outrageous** get-ups.

According to a survey, 33 per cent of men now enjoy wearing fancy dress more than their own clothes, while 39 per cent say it helps them relax and meet people.

The research also points to a 49 per cent increase in sci-fi, comic, and gaming-inspired events in the last year – which probably helps explain why no one bothers **to mock** Star Wars conferences any more.

Specialist retailer MorphSuits, is a benefactor of men's newfound love of costume, turning over £10m annually after only six years of trading. “Men are very happy to wear costumes these days because it results in more fun, more attention and more chance of getting a girl”.

But could the investment in costumes and alter-egos reflect deeper and subtler changes in men's attitude to projecting their personalities? Could it be that the modern fancy dressing male is at last tapping into his feminine side, his gay side, his **drawer-rummaging** exploratory side? “We may be more accepting of gayness now but it may simply

be that the lines we draw around gender are becoming more **blurred**,” says Dr Karen Pine, psychology professor at the University of Hertfordshire.

“In socialising children, society has traditionally been more accepting of girls with boyish tendencies than boys who show feminine traits or **campness**. Fortunately, that's changing. Dressing up is, and should be, acceptable for anyone of any gender who wants to do it and should no longer just be the domain of the girls.”

Actors routinely confess that adopting a persona or costume allows them to overcome social inhibitions. Introverts say the same. “It's often thought that our personality determines the clothes we choose,” says Karen Pine. “I maintain that it works the other way round too, that the clothes we choose influence our personality. Trying on a new costume is like trying on a new identity, we start to behave in accordance with the character **traits** associated with that clothing.”

Studies that asked participants to put on a white doctor's coat found an improvement in their mental skills. This didn't happen when participants were told it was a painter's coat. “Children of both sexes love dressing up,” says Dr Pine. “Like **pretend** play, it's an integral part of development and allows them to experiment with different identities. Our personality traits ossify once we get into our twenties but I would advocate that we don't stop exploring alternatives – and costumes and fancy dress may be the perfect vehicle for doing this.”

Adapted from The Telegraph

“Let's chat about that!”

Write your answers in an email and send them to your ECP coach!

Give reasons for your answers.

- According to the article, what has changed?
- What are the possible reasons for this change?
- Do you like dressing up? Why/not?
- Describe the last costume you wore.
- Do you believe the clothes we choose in everyday life influence our personality?
- Describe your style. Are you happy with it?



"iLook, iThink, iSpeak"

Express yourself better!

"YOU LEARN BY DOING."



Which one are you?

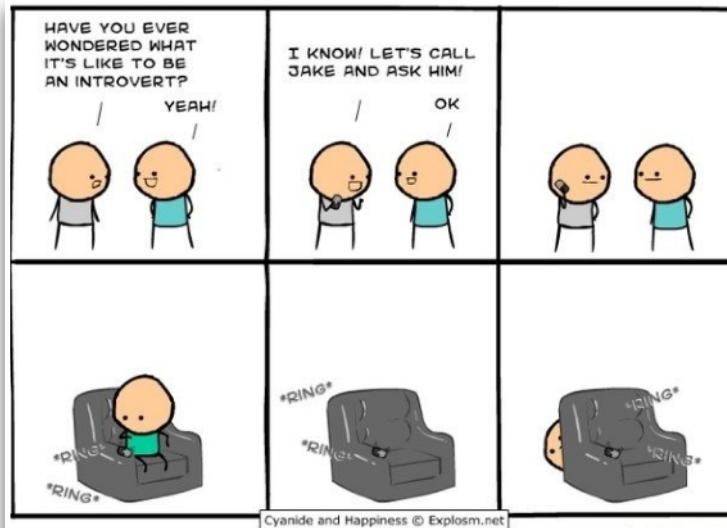
Read the texts and think about yourself.
Then think about your friends and family!

HOW TO CARE FOR INTROVERTS

- RESPECT** THEIR NEED FOR PRIVACY
- NEVER EMBARRASS** THEM IN PUBLIC
- LET THEM **OBSERVE** FIRST IN NEW SITUATIONS
- GIVE THEM TIME TO **THINK** DON'T DEMAND INSTANT ANSWERS
- DON'T** INTERRUPT THEM
- GIVE THEM **ADVANCE NOTICE** OF EXPECTED CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES
- GIVE THEM 15 MINUTE WARNINGS** TO FINISH WHATEVER THEY ARE DOING
- REPRIMAND THEM PRIVATELY**
- TEACH THEM NEW SKILLS PRIVATELY**
- ENABLE THEM TO FIND **ONE BEST FRIEND** WHO HAS SIMILAR INTERESTS & ABILITIES
- DON'T PUSH THEM** TO MAKE LOTS OF FRIENDS
- RESPECT THEIR INTROVERSION** DON'T TRY TO REMAKE THEM INTO **EXTROVERTS**

HOW TO CARE FOR EXTROVERTS

- RESPECT** THEIR INDEPENDENCE
- COMPLIMENT** THEM IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS
- ACCEPT AND ENCOURAGE** THEIR ENTHUSIASM
- ALLOW THEM TO **EXPLORE** AND TALK THINGS OUT
- SURPRISE** THEM THOUGHTFULLY
- UNDERSTAND** WHEN THEY ARE BUSY
- LET THEM **DIVE RIGHT IN**
- OFFER THEM OPTIONS**
- MAKE PHYSICAL AND VERBAL GESTURES OF **AFFECTION**
- LET THEM **SHINE**



"Socialising is learning" Student Socials

Come and speak English!

Saturday 4th March

Let's get **social!**



DON'T BE AN INTROVERT THIS SATURDAY! COME AND CHAT IN ENGLISH!!

WHERE?
BAR THE BOOK C/NIEVES CANDO
WHY?
TO CHAT AND SOCIALISE IN ENGLISH
TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT
TO HAVE A GOOD TIME!
WHEN?
SATURDAY 4TH MARCH
WHAT TIME?
5PM (AFTER LUNCH/SIESTA)