

School Uniforms



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Should elementary school students wear a uniform?
2. Are uniforms more expensive than designer clothes?
3. Do uniforms prevent violence in schools?
4. How can students with uniforms express their individuality?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. uniform | a) a rule that sets out the clothing requirements |
| ___ 2. proponent | b) a good understanding of which clothing and accessories look good |
| ___ 3. dress code | c) a person who supports an idea or rule |
| ___ 4. blouse | d) a dress shirt (with a collar) for girls |
| ___ 5. administrator | e) a set outfit that a student or worker must wear |
| ___ 6. gang | f) a person who helps run the day-to-day business |
| ___ 7. fashion sense | g) a group that uses violence to achieve goals |
| ___ 8. accessories | h) expensive clothes that have brand names |
| ___ 9. designer clothing | i) a group with a common goal or interest |
| ___ 10. community | j) items that dress up an outfit, such as jewelry and scarves |

Reading

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Where's your fashion sense?

1. Dress for success. This is what job experts say about going to an interview or a workplace. What about going to school? Should students have to look their best in class?
2. School **uniforms** are a requirement in many private schools. **Proponents** argue that uniforms cause students to take studying more seriously. Did you know that the prefix “uni” means “one”? Uniform means one form for all. A **dress code** often consists of a white shirt or **blouse** and dark pants or a skirt. Some **administrators** say that uniforms prevent students from being judged based on clothing. Others say it prevents theft and violence. In some countries, colors and brands are associated with **gangs** or beliefs.
3. Young people who are restricted by a dress code find creative ways to express their **fashion sense**. They use **accessories**, shoes, hairstyle, and makeup to express individuality or commitment to a group. School uniforms may be expensive, but **designer clothes** are even more expensive.
4. Some parents agree with school uniforms while others wish schools would let kids be kids. Do school uniforms create a sense of **community** in a school?

“I’ve been wearing lipstick since the 7th grade. That was our form of daring self-expression, because we had to wear uniforms in school.”

—Kourtney Kardashian,
reality TV star

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What do many private schools require?
2. What do supporters of uniforms say about the study habits of students who wear uniforms?
3. What does the word “uniform” mean?
4. Why does the reading mention colors?
5. How do uniform wearers express their fashion sense?

Vocabulary Review

A. Matching

Match the words on the left to the correct examples on the right.

- | | | |
|-------|----------------|---|
| _____ | 1. gangs | a) Calvin Klein, Gucci, Coco Chanel |
| _____ | 2. designers | b) belts, earrings, fashion tights |
| _____ | 3. uniform | c) shorts must be above the knees, no hats |
| _____ | 4. dress code | d) black pants or skirt with a white school T-shirt |
| _____ | 5. accessories | e) Hells Angels, the Mafia, the Dead Boys |

B. True or False?

Listen to your partner read out some statements that are based on the reading. Are they true or false? Write T on the line if the statement is true. Write F if it is false, and correct it in your notebook.

Partner A

- _____ 1. *Administrators* are the people who teach languages, such as English.
- _____ 2. A typical *dress code* in a private school is dark pants and a light-colored shirt.
- _____ 3. *Gangs* don't typically care about the color or brands that people wear.
- _____ 4. The word *uniform* comes from the prefix "uni," meaning community.
- _____ 5. *Designer clothing* is usually very expensive.

Partner B

- _____ 1. Students in private schools can't express their *fashion sense*.
- _____ 2. A *community* is made up of people with shared beliefs, goals, or location.
- _____ 3. *Proponents* of uniforms think kids should be able to wear anything to school.
- _____ 4. *Accessories* are extra items you put on, such as a watch or fashion glasses.
- _____ 5. Male students typically wear a white *blouse* to school.

Discussion

1. If you could design a school uniform, what would it look like?
(Describe male and female uniforms.)
2. Should school uniforms differ from season to season?
3. Do you think school uniforms prevent self-expression?
4. When do uniforms make sense in a workplace? Explain your answer.
5. Should all schools have mandatory dress codes? Why or why not?

Class Survey

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions.
Write their answers in the chart below. Then have a class discussion.

Classmate's name:	Did/Do you wear a uniform in high school?	Should high school students wear uniforms?	Do you think school uniforms prevent bullying?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Where's your fashion sense?

1. Dress for success. This is what job _____ say about going to an interview or a _____. What about going to school? Should students have to look their best in class?
2. School _____ are a requirement in many private schools. _____ argue that uniforms cause students to take studying more seriously. Did you know that the prefix "uni" means "one"? Uniform means one form for all. A _____ often consists of a white shirt or _____ and dark pants or a skirt. Some _____ say that uniforms prevent students from being judged based on clothing. Others say it prevents theft and violence. In some countries, colors and brands are associated with _____ or beliefs.
3. Young people who are restricted by a dress code find creative ways to express their _____. They use _____, shoes, hairstyle, and makeup to express individuality or commitment to a group. School uniforms may be expensive, but _____ are even more expensive.
4. Some parents agree with school uniforms while others wish schools would let kids be kids. Do school uniforms create a sense of _____ in a school?

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about school uniforms and discuss the pros and cons of wearing them. This lesson includes a class survey and a listening task.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: school uniforms, uniforms, dress codes, clothing, fashion, rules, school, education

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. e | 3. a | 5. f | 7. b | 9. h |
| 2. c | 4. d | 6. g | 8. j | 10. i |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- Many private schools require that their students wear uniforms.
- Supporters of uniforms believe that students who wear uniforms take studying more seriously.
- The word “uniform” means “one form.”
- The reading mentions colors because some gangs wear certain colors, and uniforms are supposed to help prevent gang violence in school.
- Uniform wearers express their fashion sense with accessories, hairstyles, shoes, and makeup.

Vocabulary Review

A. MATCHING

1. e 2. a 3. d 4. c 5. b

B. TRUE OR FALSE?

Partner A

- F – Administrators are the people who run the business side of a school or organization.
- T
- F – Gang members often wear certain colors or brands to show that they are part of a group.
- F – The word uniform comes from the prefix “uni,” meaning one.
- T

Partner B

- F – Students in private schools can express their fashion sense through accessories, shoes, and makeup.
- T
- F – Proponents of uniforms think kids should stick to a dress code and take studying more seriously.
- T
- F – Female students typically wear a white blouse to school.

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Survey

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Have a class discussion based on the survey results.

Listening

1. experts, workplace
2. uniforms, Proponents, dress code, blouse, administrators, gangs
3. fashion sense, accessories, designer clothes
4. community

SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Color* and *Jewelry*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Colour* and *Jewellery*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.