

Dress Code



This week...

Jack and Chris are talking about the dress code. They are considering relaxing the dress code to motivate their staff.

Lesson Objectives...

- Discussing dress codes
- Talking about rules

Business English Conversation

Super Class

Warm Up – Topic Question



Does the company you work for have a strict dress code?

Picture Description

What is the dress code at the company they work for?



B



A



Chris	Thanks for coming to see me, Jack. You're looking dapper today.
Jack	Thanks, Chris. I bought a new suit. I wanted to impress the CEO.
Chris	Good idea. But don't worry too much about that. She doesn't expect perfection. Actually, I wanted to talk to you about the dress code.
Jack	Really? What's up with the dress code? I'm not overdressed am I?
Chris	We're thinking of relaxing it. These days, most people don't want to wear suits and ties. We want to motivate the staff, and reward them for their hard work.
Jack	That makes sense. Have you considered doing a dress-down Friday ?
Chris	I've heard of that concept before. It means people wear whatever they want one day a week, right?
Jack	That's right. It does wonders for morale. Just as long as we make sure to dress smart when meeting clients.



Student A informs Student B of some proposed changes to the dress code. Student B makes some suggestions, and discusses the finer details.

Key Phrases

- I wanted to speak to you regarding the dress code.
- We're planning on
- Executives will be expected to wear
- Would I be allowed to wear?
- Is the policy the same for men and women?
- When does the new policy come into force?
- *Other*

Dress Code

- business casual
- dress-down Friday
- uniform
- pant suit for female staff
- dress shirt
- necktie
- business shoes
- with/without jacket
- *other*



Talk about one of the following topics for one minute:

1. The importance of looking smart when meeting clients.
2. First impressions.
3. Feeling comfortable with the clothes you wear when you are working in your office.

*Other students in the class, ask one question each to the presenter after the speech

- What are the benefits of dress codes?
- Are you able to express your individuality in the way you dress at work?
- Would you rather look smart or be comfortable?

He was dressed very nicely, but to be honest by the way he spoke I thought he was an **empty suit**.



empty suit – a person who looks smart and powerful, but is actually powerless and unimpressive

- I don't think much of the new boss. He's a bit of an **empty suit**!

wolf in sheep's clothing – someone threatening, disguised as something positive or innocent

- I warned you, the administrator is a **wolf in sheep's clothing**!

old hat – old-fashioned or unimpressive ideas

- She had a couple of ideas, but they were rather **old hat**.