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# Wacky Wardrobes

Unusual clothing from the world of fashion. by Patrick Howarth

## 1 Pre-reading

Look at these words below. Can you think of any crazy fashions with these things?

- a chemical suit
- a gas mask
- a military uniform
- human hair
- iron
- pirates
- gold

## 2 Reading I

Read the article once to compare your ideas.

## 3 Reading II

Read the sentences below. Which fashion item are they referring to?

1. This dress appeared at a show in the London College of Fashion.
2. This item of swimwear wasn't very popular with men.
3. People wear them in Asia because of all the pollution.
4. These clothes were shown at Fashion Rio.
5. This outfit is perfect for after a chemical attack.
6. These clothes were inspired by a Hollywood film.
7. You need a lot of money to buy this item of clothing.
8. This item comes with a pink gun.

## 4 Language focus The Past Simple

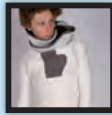
Look at this extract from the article, "Top designer John Galliano had gold trousers in his menswear collection..." The writer has used the past tense of the verb "to have" ("had"). Transform the following sentences from the Present Simple to the Past Simple.

1. He makes the clothes.
2. The film inspires her.
3. They don't become popular.
4. It doesn't appear in fashion shows.
5. He borrows the idea.

## 5 Discussion

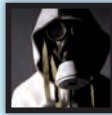
1. What's your favourite item of clothing that you own? Why do you like it so much?
2. Do you buy designer label clothing? Why? Why not?
3. What's the most expensive item of clothing you've ever bought? Are you pleased with it? Why? Why not?

Fashion is all about strange and original designs, but how many of these designs do people actually buy? Let's look at some of the most bizarre fashion ideas of recent years.



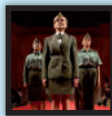
### The Urban Security Suit

The Urban Security Suit was made by Dutch designer Tim Smit in 2008. With this suit you can look fashionable even after a chemical attack - when you'll want to look your best, of course. "This is *the* must-have accessory for the next war, skirmish, struggle, conflict, combat zone or civil strife you find yourself in..." said the designer.



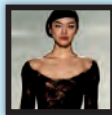
### Gas Masks

Masks are very popular in the fashion world at the moment. People have worn them in Asia to protect themselves from pollution. But now they're a fashion statement. Gas masks appeared in many fashion shows in 2008/2009. This picture shows a Japanese girl wearing the latest in fashionable survival accessories.



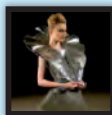
### Military Uniforms

Other warfare fashions include designer "fun" military uniforms, some of which come with a pink gun. Would you wear this next time you go out for dinner? One question, is it OK to take a purse, wallet or handbag with you?



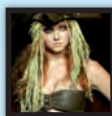
### Human Hair

Are you happy with wearing fur? No? Then, what about clothes made from human hair? In 2007 designer Julia Reindell created a series of dresses made from human hair as part of her show at the London College of Fashion. Other designers liked the idea and human hair dresses became common on the catwalk in early 2008. But what do you do with your human hair suit? Brush it? Comb it? Curl it?



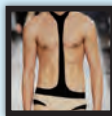
### Iron Clothes

If hair is not your thing, you could think about iron. Fashion designer Luana Jardim showed a collection of dresses made of iron at Fashion Rio in 2008. Just what you need next time you go to a "heavy metal" concert.



### Pirate Fashion

Hollywood often influences fashion. *The Pirates of the Caribbean* films inspired lots of designers, including Jean Paul Gaultier's 2008 Paris collection. Pirate hats, big belts and boots were in. But then everybody wants to look like Johnny Depp.



### Menskiirts

Of course, wacky fashion isn't only for women. Do you remember menskiirts? These first appeared in 2006/7 and David Beckham was one of their biggest fans. And what about the mankini (see picture)? British designer Alexander McQueen borrowed the idea from the *Borat* film. McQueen's one-piece swimsuit came out at the Milan Fashion Week in 2008 but fortunately it didn't become very popular.



### Gold Jeans

Feeling rich? Then how about a pair of gold-plated jeans? Top designer John Galliano had gold trousers in his menswear collection. Pictured are the Goldplated Jeans by Kohzo Denim. The trousers are actually made of organic cotton which is then painted with 18 carat gold paint. They'll cost you about €600 a pair.

So as you can see the world of fashion has something for everybody. Isn't it time you made your wardrobe a bit wackier? ✨