



4-H Fabrics & Fashions

Consumer Education

Intermediate Level (12-14 Years)

Your Wardrobe Plan: Putting It in Place

Dressing well is not a matter of having a lot of clothes or wearing expensive clothes or the latest fashions. The secret to being well-dressed lies in choosing clothes that are right for you and your activities. If you don't have a plan for adding new clothes to your wardrobe, you may wind up with a closet full of clothes but nothing to wear.

With a well-planned wardrobe, you won't have to spend a lot of time wondering what to wear because your clothes, made up of mostly separates, can be matched into many combinations. The more combinations you have, the more money you save.

Test your wardrobe IQ by checking the correct response to each of the following statements.

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- A. I can always find something to wear, no matter what the occasion.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- B. When I'm invited to a party, banquet or some other special occasion, I always purchase a new outfit.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- C. I seem to have lots of tops and lots of bottoms, but they just don't go together.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- D. I usually have a specific item in mind when I go shopping for clothes.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- E. I try to buy new garments that will match my old ones.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- F. I tend to buy the latest fashion, even if it doesn't flatter my body type.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- G. If I find clothing I like, I buy it right then, even if it isn't something I need.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- H. I like to go through my closet and find new ways to wear my old clothes.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- I. On at least one occasion I have bought a garment or accessory only to find out it didn't match anything else I owned.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- J. I regularly throw away, give away, or recycle clothes I'm no longer wearing.
 Usually Sometimes Never

Now use the table below to see how you rate as a wardrobe planner.

	<i>Usually</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Almost Never</i>	<i>MY SCORE</i>
A	3	2	1	
B	1	3	2	
C	1	2	3	
D	3	2	1	
E	3	2	1	
F	1	2	3	
G	1	2	3	
H	3	2	1	
I	1	2	3	
J	3	2	1	
<i>Total</i>				

If you scored between 25 and 30 points, you are a smart shopper who invests money in clothing wisely.

If you scored between 16 and 24 points, you've made an effort at planning but still need some help.

If you scored between 10 and 15 points, your wardrobe really needs help! You are spending too much money for what you're getting.

There are dozens of books and magazine articles on wardrobe planning and hundreds of professional consultants who specialize in wardrobe planning strategies, but ALL the experts agree that pre-planning begins with a closet inventory.

There are no shortcuts. You must know what you have before you can decide what you need to add.

Follow these steps to complete your wardrobe inventory:

1. Take everything out of the closet.
2. Divide clothes into five stacks:
 - a. In style, in season, and in good condition.
 - b. In style, in good condition but out of season.
 - c. Wearable, if repaired
 - d. Give away
 - e. Recycle

3. Put your clothes back into your closet, re-organizing as you go. Hang all your pants together in one section, all your shirts in another, your skirts in another, your dresses in another and all coats in another.

By hanging each category separately you may see combinations you never thought of wearing before.