

Fashion

Discussion

Work in pairs or small groups. Discuss these questions:

1. What sort of clothes do you wear most of the time?
2. Do you wear different clothes for work/study? In what way are they different?
3. What do you wear for more formal occasions and for parties?
4. Where do you buy most of your clothes?
5. Do you buy designer label clothes? Which designers?
6. Do you read any fashion magazines? Which?

Reading

Read the article. Match each of the summaries below to one of the paragraphs in the article:

- | Summary | Paragraph number |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| What people wear and don't wear today | — |
| What fashion designers do | — |
| A very special dress | — |

FASHION! – WHAT'S THE POINT?

1. Björk is on the catwalk. Her skirt is made of bright red ostrich feathers. The 2,000 shiny red glass beads attached to her top ring like little bells. She sounds like a one-person bell orchestra. And the beads are not just ordinary beads. They are specially-ordered microscope slides, each individually hand-drilled and individually painted red. Extraordinary? Yes. Radical? Yes. But what's the point?

2. This is the 21st century after all. Most people are happy with a T-shirt and jeans, a shirt and a pair of chinos. Even business executives dress down these days. Clothes are casual: easy to wear, easy to care for. Whereas the dress that Björk wore, designed by Alexander McQueen, took over a month to make and is one of only two in existence. The other is in an exhibition in a museum in London. Though, frankly, who else would want one?

3. For many people extreme fashion is just self-indulgence on the part of the designers. They are attention seekers, they make headlines, but they don't sell clothes. But for the designers themselves, fashion is a way of airing ideas, of making a statement. The clothes they design are intended to provoke and challenge the way we live, think and are. Closer to conceptual art and less to do with the clothes industry, perhaps.

Questions in pairs

Work in pairs. Read the article again. Then take turns asking each other the following questions:

1. What is Björk's skirt made of?
2. What is Björk's top made of?
3. What do most people like to wear these days?
4. How do many business executives dress these days?
5. How many dresses have been made like the one Björk is wearing?
6. How many people does the writer think would like a dress like Björk's?
7. How do many people feel about fashion designers?
8. How do fashion designers see their work?