

Fashion Show

Oral in-class activity + outside written preparation
1st year, 1st semester

Goals

Speaking: Recognize and describe items of clothing, colors, and physical characteristics of self and others.
Speak clearly in a (simulated) high-pressure public setting.

Writing: Use model structures to create simple descriptive sentences.

Time: ~30 minutes/class for two days, coordinated with study of relevant grammar or vocabulary (e.g., adjectives, physical descriptions). Schedule it during Fashion Week in your country/language!

Materials: Videos and music easily found on the internet or brought on CD/DVD. Fashion magazines and websites in the target language.

Day 1

15 min: *Instructor introduces task and vocabulary*

- Describe the clothes you are wearing.
- Show a video of a fashion show (news/YouTube clips) and describe what the models are wearing. Pass around fashion magazines for students to look at. Talk about the role of fashion in your country.
- Review/introduce vocabulary for items of clothing (w/ visual reference in text or handout), color adjectives, physical descriptions (height, hair, eye color, etc.), the verb “to wear.”

15 min: *Students prepare in groups (4-6 students)*

- Discuss the clothes you are wearing, the colors you like, your favorite clothes, what clothes make sense for current weather, etc. Your instructor will help you with grammar and vocabulary.
- Decide on a name for your fashion house. (Perhaps borrow a famous name from your country?)
- Elect an announcer to present the season’s lineup.
- Plan what clothes each member should wear for the fashion show tomorrow.

Homework for tomorrow: Bring to class, printed out, three complete sentences describing the clothes you are wearing. Use descriptive adjectives for color as well as other attributes (national origin, cost, old/new, etc.). Write the sentences in the third person (i.e., he/she rather than “I”).

Day 2

10 min: *Group preparation*

- Instructor reviews the day’s schedule and models descriptive sentences again.
- While fashion show videos/music play in the background to “pump up” the students, groups meet to compile and review their announcers’ scripts.

15 min: ***Fashion Show!***

- Push desks to the side to make a “runway” down the middle of the classroom; play appropriate high-energy music (soundtracks to YouTube fashion videos).
- Instructor, as MC, introduces and thanks each “fashion house.”
- Each group: Announcer describes the other group members’ clothes by reading aloud the texts they have written, as the students walk up and down the “runway.”

10 min: *Awards presentation*

- When all groups have presented, instructor leads the class in (highly informal) voting for Best Fashion House, Best Announcer, Best Model (Male), and Best Model (Female). In the event of a tie vote, a “walkoff” may be required!