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GRAMMAR BOOSTER

# HOW TO USE THE PAST PERFECT

| Affirmative                     | Negative                          | Interrogative                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>I had seen it before.</i>    | <i>I hadn't seen it before</i>    | <i>Had I seen it before?</i>    |
| <i>You had seen it before.</i>  | <i>You hadn't seen it before</i>  | <i>Had you seen it before?</i>  |
| <i>He had seen it before.</i>   | <i>He hadn't seen it before</i>   | <i>Had he seen it before?</i>   |
| <i>She had seen it before.</i>  | <i>She hadn't seen it before</i>  | <i>Had she seen it before?</i>  |
| <i>It had seen it before.</i>   | <i>It hadn't seen it before</i>   | <i>Had it seen it before?</i>   |
| <i>We had seen it before.</i>   | <i>We hadn't seen it before</i>   | <i>Had we seen it before?</i>   |
| <i>They had seen it before.</i> | <i>They hadn't seen it before</i> | <i>Had they seen it before?</i> |



**The Past Perfect**

The abbreviated forms are: *I'd, you'd, he'd, she'd, it'd we'd, they'd.*

We form the Past Perfect with *had* + a past participle.

We can use the Past Perfect to refer to an action that happened before another Past Simple action. For example: "When I arrived at the cinema, the film **had** already **started**."

8:30pm: The film started.  
9pm: I arrived at the cinema.  
"The film **had** already **started** when I arrived at the cinema."

We can use question words (*who, what, when, where, why, etc.*) with the Past Perfect. For example:

- a) Where had you put it?
- b) What had they done?

**Dialogue: The flight**

It's Sunday morning and Josh and Karen have just met in the street. Josh had planned to go away for the weekend. **[Listen and complete with the correct nouns.]**

**Karen:** Josh, how's it going?  
**Josh:** Not bad.  
**Karen:** Weren't you supposed to be in Frankfurt this (1) \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
**Josh:** Yeah, but I never made it.  
**Karen:** What happened?  
**Josh:** Well, just when I got to the (2) \_\_\_\_\_, I realised that I'd left my passport at home. So, I had to race back

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ to pick it up. Luckily, I'd left home really early so I had enough time.  
**Karen:** Phew!  
**Josh:** Yeah, well, anyway, I got back to the airport and rushed to the (4) \_\_\_\_\_, but as I was going through the security checkpoint, they told me that the e-ticket that I'd printed off wasn't a valid boarding (5) \_\_\_\_\_. So, I couldn't go through.  
**Karen:** What a disaster!  
**Josh:** By the time I'd messed around printing it off again, the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ had

already left.  
**Karen:** Oh, no.  
**Josh:** So, anyway, I booked another (7) \_\_\_\_\_ for later that day, but when I went to put in my credit card details, I couldn't find my wallet. I don't know what had happened. I must have dropped it somewhere. Anyway, I had to spend the next (8) \_\_\_\_\_ or so reporting my lost credit cards. In the end, I just went back to bed.  
**Karen:** Sometimes, it's the only solution! ☺



**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** How often do you take photos? What do you do with your photos? Do you print them out and put them in albums? Why? Why not? What type of camera have you got? What do you like/dislike about it?

**Exams** This reading and listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as KET and TOEFL.

TRACK 3: US MAN & ENGLISHMAN



# THREE TRENDS IN PHOTOGRAPHY

If you're into photography, you might be interested in these three trends: selfies, forced perspective photos and photobombing.



**1 Selfies**  
A selfie is a photo that you take of yourself.

You can take a selfie with a digital camera, a mobile or a **smartphone**. Selfies are often posted on photo-sharing websites such as Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. In December 2012, Time magazine noted that "selfie" was among the "top 10 **buzzwords**" of 2012. A poll commissioned by smartphone and camera maker Samsung found that selfies make up 30% of the photos taken by people aged 18-24.



**2 Forced perspective photos**  
Forced perspective photos create an **optical illusion**. Many forced perspective photos consist of one person in the **foreground**, with another **figure** or object in the **background**. The person in the foreground often appears larger than

normal; and the person or object in the background appears to be smaller. This effect is **achieved** by having the person in the foreground appear to touch the person or object in the background. For example, a woman in the foreground could hold out her hand and appear to touch the Eiffel Tower, which is in the background. Of course, you can create optical illusions like these with software such as Photoshop, but doing it for real is a lot more fun!

## 3 Photobombing

Photobombing is the act of appearing in someone else's photo, often as a joke. A number of websites include sections on photobombing, especially the photobombing of celebrities. Photobombing by animals is also quite common. One of the most famous animal photobombers is known as Crasher Squirrel. He appeared in a photo of a Minnesota **couple** who were taking **shots** of themselves in May 2009 at Banff National Park in Alberta (Canada). As they were sitting on some rocks next to a lake, a Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel stood up right in

front of the **lens** and appeared in the shot. ☺

## INFORMATION BOX

One of the first teenagers to take a picture of herself was Russian Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna at the age of 13. She took the photo in 1914. In the letter that accompanied the photograph, she wrote, "I took this picture of myself looking at the mirror."



## GLOSSARY

- a **smartphone** <sup>11</sup> a mobile phone that you can use to play games / go on the internet / send e-mails, etc.
- a **buzzword** <sup>11</sup> a word or expression that has become popular and that is being used a lot in newspapers, etc.
- an **optical illusion** <sup>11</sup> something that appears to exist but which doesn't really exist or is in reality something else
- the **foreground** <sup>11</sup> the area in a photo / picture, etc. that is nearest to you / in the front
- a **figure** <sup>11</sup> a person
- the **background** <sup>11</sup> the area in a photo / picture, etc. that is furthest from you / at the back
- to **achieve** <sup>11</sup> if you "achieve" an effect, you create that effect
- a **couple** <sup>11</sup> two people who are married / in a relationship
- a **shot** <sup>11</sup> a photo
- a **lens** <sup>11</sup> a thin, curved piece of glass or plastic used in cameras / glasses, etc. On a camera, you look through the lens when you take a photo

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

You're going to read about three trends in photography: selfies, forced perspective photos and photobombing. What do you think they involve?

## 2 Reading I

Read the article once. Then, say what type of photo the main image is.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write Selfie, Forced or Photobomb next to each statement.

- The figure in the foreground appears to be bigger than normal.
- Animals can do it.
- It's a photo that you take of yourself.
- Websites often have sections featuring famous ones with celebrities.
- According to a poll, this type of photo comprises 30% of photos taken by 18-24-year-olds.
- The person in the background appears to be smaller than normal.

# 12 USEFUL EXPRESSIONS WITH GET



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The verb *to get* is extremely useful. It can be used in a number of expressions. It can also mean several different things: *to become*, *to arrive*, *to receive*, *to buy*. The words in brackets can be substituted for others.

## Get (married)



If you "get married", you marry.  
"We're **getting** married next year."

## Get (angry)



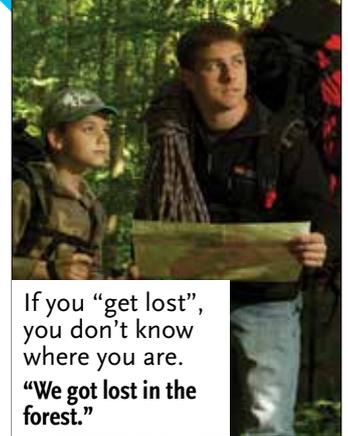
If you "get angry", you become angry.  
"I **get** angry when people take my things without asking."

## Get (dark)

If it "gets dark", it becomes dark.  
"It's **getting** dark. We should go home."



## Get lost



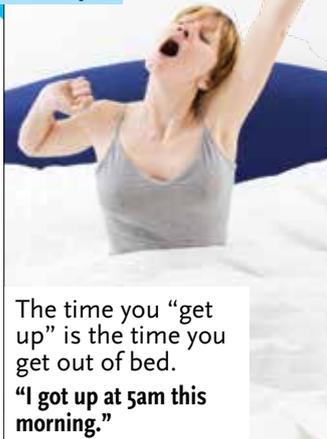
If you "get lost", you don't know where you are.  
"We **got** lost in the forest."

## Get (worse)



If things "get worse", they become worse.  
"If my headache **gets** worse, I'm going to see a doctor."

## Get up



The time you "get up" is the time you get out of bed.  
"I **got** up at 5am this morning."

## Get dressed



If you "get dressed", you put on clothes.  
"I **got** dressed in just five minutes."

## Get (out)



If you "get out" of a car, you leave the car.  
"She **got** out of the car."

## Get along with



If you "get along with" someone, you have a good relationship with them.  
"I **get** along with my work colleagues."

## Get (home)



The time you "get home" is the time you arrive home.  
"I **got** home really late last night."

## Get (an e-mail)



If you "get an e-mail", you receive it.  
"I **got** lots of e-mails yesterday."

## Get (a computer)



If you "get a computer", you buy it or someone buys it for you.  
"I **got** a new computer last month."

## Learning expressions

The best way to learn any words or expressions is by seeing or hearing them in context when you're reading or listening to English. Make a note of any words or expressions that you like (or want to learn) and write these down in sentences. Remember, always record language in phrases or sentences – never as individual words. You should also practise using the words or expressions as often as you can: in conversation, on the phone, in e-mails, etc.

# Business News

BUSINESS NEWS N°6

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

NOVEMBER 2013

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Exams** This listening activity will help prepare you for English exams such as PET and TOEFL.

**Think about it**

When was the last time you flew somewhere? Where did you go? Which airline did you fly with? Did you have to pay for any extras or add-ons? What were they? Are you signed up to any frequent flyer programs? Which ones? Have you ever exchanged any air miles for a free flight? Where did you go?

Answers on page 44

**1 Pre-reading**  
You're going to read an article about how airlines make money from extras. What do you think these "extras" are?

**2 Reading I**  
Read the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

**3 Reading II**  
Read the article again. Then, answer the questions.

1. How much did airlines make from add-ons last year?
2. What was the figure three years ago?
3. Where do airlines get commissions from?
4. Why are frequent flyer programs (FFPs) good for passengers?
5. Why are they a good marketing tool for airlines?
6. How do airlines make money from FFPs?
7. How much is the airline that makes the most from add-ons making per passenger?
8. What percentage of their income does the amount Ryanair makes from extras account for?

## HOW AIRLINES MAKE THEIR MONEY



How much did you pay for your last flight? What about all the extras? A new report by analysts IdeaWorks shows that airlines made £18 billion last year charging passengers for **add-ons**, twice as much as three years ago.

So, what are these "extras"? Well, they include the prices you pay for **in-flight food** and drinks, as well as charges for paying for tickets by credit card, reserving a seat, getting an **upgrade**, and **penalties** for not having printed your **boarding pass**. Airlines also get **commission** from **car rental firms** and hotels that they recommend to their passengers.

Another important source of revenue comes from **frequent flyer programs** (FFPs). As a customer, you can earn (air) **miles** every time you fly and then convert these into free airline tickets or use the miles at restaurants or hotels.

For the airlines, there are several benefits. Firstly,

the program is great for creating **customer loyalty**. But on top of that, airlines also get money from credit card companies, hotels, supermarket **chains** and restaurants, who buy air miles for their own loyalty programs. For example, if you **accumulate** enough points on your supermarket loyalty card, you can exchange these for airline flights.

So, which airlines are making the most from all the extras? The winner is... Aussie-based Qantas, which earns £37 per passenger. They're followed by AirAsiaX (£28.86 per passenger), Korean Air (£28.82), Virgin Atlantic (£18.95) and Jetstar (£18.42). In a table of the top 10 airlines in Europe, Jet2.com **came top** at £30.15. Surprisingly, Ryanair was sixth on the list, making just £11 per customer last year, which accounts for 22% of their **income**.

Next time you buy an airline ticket, remember to take

account of all the extras you might have to pay! ✪

### GLOSSARY

- an add-on** *n*  
something extra that a company gives you (or charges you for) as part of a service
- in-flight food** *n*  
food that you eat on the aeroplane while you're flying somewhere
- an upgrade** *n*  
if you get an "upgrade", you receive a better version of something. In this case, you get a seat in First Class, for example
- a penalty** *n*  
an amount of money you must pay as punishment for not doing something correctly
- a boarding pass** *n*  
a pass an airline gives you. You must have it in order to board (get on) the plane
- a commission** *n*  
a sum of money paid to a salesperson, etc. for every sale that they make
- a car rental firm** *n*  
a company that rents cars to people in return for an amount of money
- a frequent flyer program** *n*  
if you're registered with a "frequent flyer program", you get air miles (points) every time you fly. Later you can exchange these air miles for an airline ticket
- (air) miles** *n*  
points you get every time you fly with a particular airline
- customer loyalty** *n*  
if a company has a good level of "customer loyalty", their customers keep buying things from them, rather than other companies
- a chain** *n*  
a supermarket "chain" (for example) is a company that has a lot of supermarkets all over the country
- to accumulate** *v*  
if you "accumulate" points, you receive / collect those points over a period of time
- to come top** *exp*  
if you "come top", you're in (or near) the first position in a list
- income** *n*  
money a company receives from sales, etc.
- to nickname** *vb*  
if something is "nicknamed" a certain thing, that's the informal name for it

**FAST FACT**

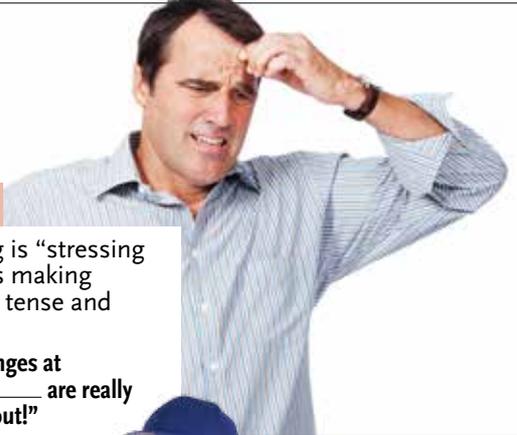
Qantas is Australia's largest airline, and the oldest continuously-operated airline in the world. It's **nicknamed** "The Flying Kangaroo".

Complete the sentences (1 to 8) with the words from below.

- news    anger    help    incident    shouted    work    meeting    appearance

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**1**



**Stress out**

If something is “stressing you out”, it’s making you feel very tense and stressed.  
 “All these changes at \_\_\_\_\_ are really stressing me out!”

**2**



**Get someone down**

If something “gets you down”, it makes you feel sad and depressed.  
 “All this bad \_\_\_\_\_ is really starting to get me down.”

**3**



**Let someone down**

If you “let someone down”, you make them feel sad/disappointed because you don’t do what you promised to do.  
 “You really let me down by not turning up to support me at that \_\_\_\_\_.”

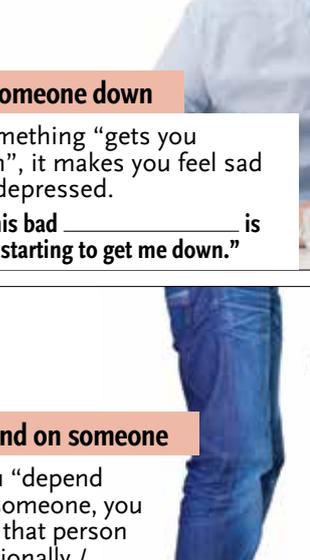
**4**



**Depend on someone**

If you “depend on” someone, you need that person emotionally / psychologically.  
 “I’m depending on you to \_\_\_\_\_ me with this, so don’t let me down.”

**5**



**Obsess over**

If you “obsess over” something, you worry about it a lot, and keep thinking about it.  
 “He’s always obsessing over his \_\_\_\_\_. He won’t go out until he looks perfect!”

**6**



**Mess someone up**

If something “messes someone up”, it makes them confused or worried, and could cause them to have psychological problems.  
 “The kidnapping \_\_\_\_\_ really messed them up.”

**7**



**Bottle things up**

If you “bottle up” feelings or anger (for example), you repress it and don’t express it. “You shouldn’t bottle up your \_\_\_\_\_. You need to talk about it.”

**8**



**Let off (steam)**

To release your feelings of anger / emotion, etc. by talking about it.  
 “I’m sorry I \_\_\_\_\_ at you like that. I think I just needed to let off some steam.”

**Objective** To improve your reading and listening skills.

**Think about it** Are there any famous magicians from your country? Have they done any live stunts on TV? What were they? Which other famous magicians have you heard of? What are some of their most famous stunts?

**Exams** This reading activity will help prepare you for English exams such as CAE, IELTS and TOEFL.



IT'S  
FUN UP  
HERE!



# The truth behind the magic!

By Olivia Spector

He's walked on water, passed through glass, and levitated at the side of a bus. Dynamo is one of England's most famous magicians. He's achieved a huge following from his incredible stunts. But how does he do them?

## The river

On 25th June 2011, Dynamo was filmed walking on the River Thames. The stunt was designed to generate publicity for his latest show. Dynamo walked about a hundred metres on the water before he was taken away in a passing police boat.

**How did he do it?** It's possible he was walking on a concealed, transparent platform just beneath the surface of the water. At one point, two canoes seem to hit the platform accidentally. The police boat is believed to be a fake.

## The necklace

In Las Vegas in 2011, Dynamo borrowed a necklace from a woman and swallowed it. He then pulled it out from a "hole" in his stomach.

**How did he do it?** It's been suggested that he had a fake torso. So, instead of actually swallowing the necklace, he simply slipped it underneath the prosthetic stomach and then pulled it out again.

## The dive

In 2012, Dynamo walked down the *LA Times* headquarters in Los Angeles, stopping in a horizontal position just above the ground.

**How did he do it?** The trick happened at night, where

it would have been harder to spot a wire or harness. There were floodlights on the ground which shone onto Dynamo but which created shadows behind him where a climbing rope or support harness could easily have been hidden.

## The glass window

Also in 2012, at a party on the ground floor of a shop in London, Dynamo gave his jacket to a pair of bouncers who held it in front of him to create a shoulder-high screen. He then disappeared behind the screen before re-emerging on the other side of the shop window as if he'd walked straight through the glass.

**How did he do it?** It's most likely that the solid window had a secret hatch at the bottom which Dynamo could have opened while he was covered. He probably slipped through this before the coat-screen was removed.

## The bus

On 23rd June 2013, Dynamo could be seen levitating at the side of a double-decker bus as part of a promotion for Pepsi Max. It appeared that he was just resting his arm on top of a double-decker bus and floating as it drove around London.

## How did he do it?

Throughout the stunt Dynamo's right arm – the one touching the bus – remains at a perfect right angle to his body. Some have speculated that his real right arm is tucked beneath his clothes, while a prosthetic limb is bolted to the bus. This fake arm also



conceals a metal rod which holds him up. \*

## DYNAMO

Dynamo is an English magician whose real name is Steven Frayne. He was born on 17th December 1982. He's best known for his show *Dynamo: Magician Impossible*. He was inducted into The Magic Circle (a prestigious society for magicians) on 5th July 2012.

## VIDEO

YouTube

Watch Dynamo do a trick on actress Lindsay Lohan. Search YouTube for "Dynamo amazing trick on Lindsay Lohan".

## GLOSSARY

**to levitate** *vb*  
if someone "levitates", they appear to rise and float in the air

**a stunt** *n*  
a dangerous or incredible act. It's often done for publicity

**to conceal** *vb*  
to hide

**a fake** *n*  
something that isn't real

**to swallow** *vb*  
when you "swallow" food (for example), it goes from your mouth to your stomach

**a torso** *n*  
the main part of your body, not including your head, arms and legs

**prosthetic** *adj*  
"prosthetic" parts of the body are artificial ones used to replace natural ones

**to spot** *vb*  
to see/notice

**a wire** *n*  
a thin piece of metal used to tie things, etc.

**a harness** *n*  
a set of straps which fit under a person's arms and around their body. A "harness" is used to keep a piece of equipment in place

**floodlights** *n*  
large lights used to illuminate (light) an area outside

**a bouncer** *n*  
a person whose job is to control who enters a club, etc.

**a screen** *n*  
a piece of metal/wood, etc. that is used to hide an area in a room or to divide a room

**a hatch** *n*  
a small opening/door that people can use to enter or leave a room/building, etc.

**to tuck** *vb*  
if you "tuck" something in a place, you put it there so it's safe

**a limb** *n*  
your "limbs" are your arms or legs

**to bolt** *vb*  
if you "bolt" A to B, you attach A to B with a bolt: a metal object which you can screw (fix by turning) into a nut (a thick metal ring)

**a rod** *n*  
a long, thin piece of metal or wood

Answers on page 44

## 1 Pre-reading

You're going to read about a magician who did the following tricks: He has... walked on water, swallowed a necklace and retrieved it from his stomach, walked down a building, walked through glass, levitated at the side of a bus... How do you think he did these tricks? Make notes.

## 2 Reading I

Read or listen to the article once to compare your ideas from the Pre-reading activity.

## 3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write a summary of how the author thinks Dynamo did each trick.

## 4 Language focus Collocations

Complete the collocations from the article:

walk \_\_\_\_\_ water;  
the surface of the water;  
\_\_\_\_\_ the ground; a  
pair \_\_\_\_\_; slip \_\_\_\_\_  
something; \_\_\_\_\_ the  
side of; on top \_\_\_\_\_  
something; at a right  
angle \_\_\_\_\_ something

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## In good hands

If something is "in good hands", it's with someone who is careful, trustworthy and competent.

**"Don't worry. Your car's in good hands with me. I've never had an accident."**



## On the safe side

If you're "on the safe side", you're prepared for every eventuality. This means that there's less risk or danger.

**"Just to be on the safe side, we should take some extra money with us. You never know!"**



## Play it safe

To avoid taking a risk; to be careful not to take risks.

**"We decided to play it safe and only invest half the money, putting the rest in a deposit account."**



## Safe and sound

If something is "safe and sound", it's protected and not in danger.

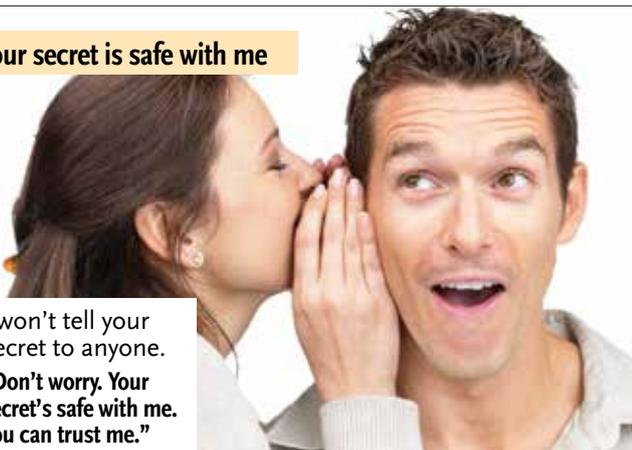
**"The trip up the mountains was a bit scary, especially at night, but we're all back, safe and sound."**



## Your secret is safe with me

I won't tell your secret to anyone.

**"Don't worry. Your secret's safe with me. You can trust me."**



## As safe as houses (British & Australian)

To be very safe.

**"Don't worry, I've hidden the money under the floorboards. No one will ever think to look there. It's as safe as houses!"**



## The coast is clear

There's no danger; nobody can see you; the danger has gone.

**"OK. The dog has gone inside now. You can come down from the tree. The coast is clear."**



## Out of harm's way

If you put something "out of harm's way", you put it in a safe place where it can't be damaged or children can't reach it.

**"If you put the medicine on the top shelf, it'll be out of harm's way and the kids won't be able to get to it."**



# CLOTHES

## Dressing gown

A long type of soft jacket you wear over your pyjamas to keep warm at home.

**"I wore my dressing gown and pyjamas all day yesterday!"**



## Sleeve

The "sleeves" of a shirt/coat, etc. are the parts that cover your arms.

**"He rolled up his sleeves."**



## Cuff

The "cuffs" of a shirt are the parts at the end of the sleeves.

**"He did up the cuffs with some silver cufflinks that his mother-in-law had bought for him."**



## Zip

A metal device that's used to open or close clothes/bags, etc. It consists of two rows of metal "teeth" which separate or join as you pull a small tag along them. "Zipper" in US English. The verb is "to zip (up)".

**"You should zip up your jacket – it's cold out there."**



## Collar

The "collar" of a shirt or coat is the part which fits round your neck.

**"She's wearing a white, striped shirt with a fairly large collar."**



## Heel

The "heel" of a shoe is the high part on the bottom at the back. "High-heeled" shoes have very high heels.

**"She was wearing some high-heeled shoes."**



## Trendy

Someone who is "trendy" wears fashionable and modern clothes.

**"She looks really trendy in those sunglasses."**



## Tight

If clothes are "tight", they fit very closely to your body.

**"Those trousers are a bit tight for you, aren't they?"**



## Baggy

Baggy clothing is loose and a bit big for you.

**"Those baggy jeans look really good on you."**



## Match

If A "matches" B, A and B go well together because they're the same colour/pattern, etc.

**"Those socks match your bow tie."**



## Suit

If something "suits" you, it looks good on you.

**"That blue tie really suits you – it goes with your eyes."**



## Fit

If clothes "fit" you, they're the right size for you.

**"This jacket doesn't fit me – it's too small!"**

