

Listening for meaning

Use the information from the listening to answer the following questions.

1. Are most of the dress code violations Margot sees very serious violations or small variations? Given an example.
2. What is the worst time of year for dress code problems in the workplace? Why?
3. According Margot, do men and women break dress code in the same way or differently? Explain your answer.
4. Why is it important to “get it right” when dressing for the workplace?
5. Why is it important for companies to have clear policies and guidelines for staff about dress code?
6. According to Margot, what should a male boss do when talking to a female subordinate about dress code problems?
7. What new trends has Margot noticed in the workplace in terms of clothes?
8. What kinds of clothing does Margot consider to be business casual?

Listening strategies – Inferred meaning

Listen to the podcast again

From the description that the human resources manager gives about the various ways of dressing and pieces of clothing that could be worn to work, can you understand if she is suggesting whether each look is appropriate or inappropriate?

For each piece of clothing or outfit listed in the table, check if the speaker is implying that is appropriate or inappropriate.

Piece of clothing/outfit	Appropriate for some workplaces according to this speaker	Inappropriate for the workplace according to this speaker
Very short skirts		
Gym clothes		
Pants with frayed bottoms		
Golf shorts		
Cargo pant shorts		
Thin strap tops		
Khaki pants		
Untucked dress shirts		
Jeans		
Sweaters		

Answers can be found in the appendix