



**Listen to the song again, and choose the item of clothing that you hear**

She threw my clothes out on the street,  
My underpants/underwear, my shorts/shirts, my jeans/trousers,  
My Sunday shoes/suit, shoes/suit, waistcoat/coat and tights/tie,  
She was mad at me, I don't know why

But I guess that it won't last,  
'Cause she kept my favourite shirt/shorts,  
It was the striped one that she'd given me last year.

Summer flip-flops/sandals, winter shoes/boots,  
flip-flops/slippers, bathing suit/bathrobe, and a bathing suit/bathrobe,  
All on the street lying in the dirt,  
But all I wanted was my favourite shirt/shorts.

Then I asked for my waistcoat/raincoat,  
It looked like it was going to rain,  
And she'd cut my leather jacket/boots into pieces again.

Then she came out in a shirt/t-shirt and a miniskirt/t-shirt,  
she put my boots/gloves on and she gave me the finger.

I picked my high-heels/ties up,  
My tights/tie, my waistcoat/dress and my make-up,  
I wonder why she got so mad,  
Cross-dressing's just my latest fad.

I'm still the same man inside  
In a sweater/waistcoat or dressed up like a bride  
I said: "I'm rubber and you are glue"  
She said: "white boots/socks and sandals/flip-flops don't go together, dude".

### **Post-listening activities**

What do these other words related to clothes mean? Check the lyrics to see the context:  
striped, leather, to put on, cross-dressing, fad, to dress up, to go together

Tell the story of what happens in this song. What will happen next?

Do you know any cross-dressers? Are there any celebrities in your country who are cross-dressers?

Do you think the singer's girlfriend was right to be mad about his cross-dressing? Why / Why not?

What do you think the expression "she gave me the finger" means?

What do you think the expression "I'm rubber and you are glue" means?

The song ends with the line "*white socks and sandals don't go together*".

- Do you agree?
- Do you wear white socks with sandals?
- Have you seen anyone wearing white socks with sandals? Who? Where?

# My Favourite Shirt

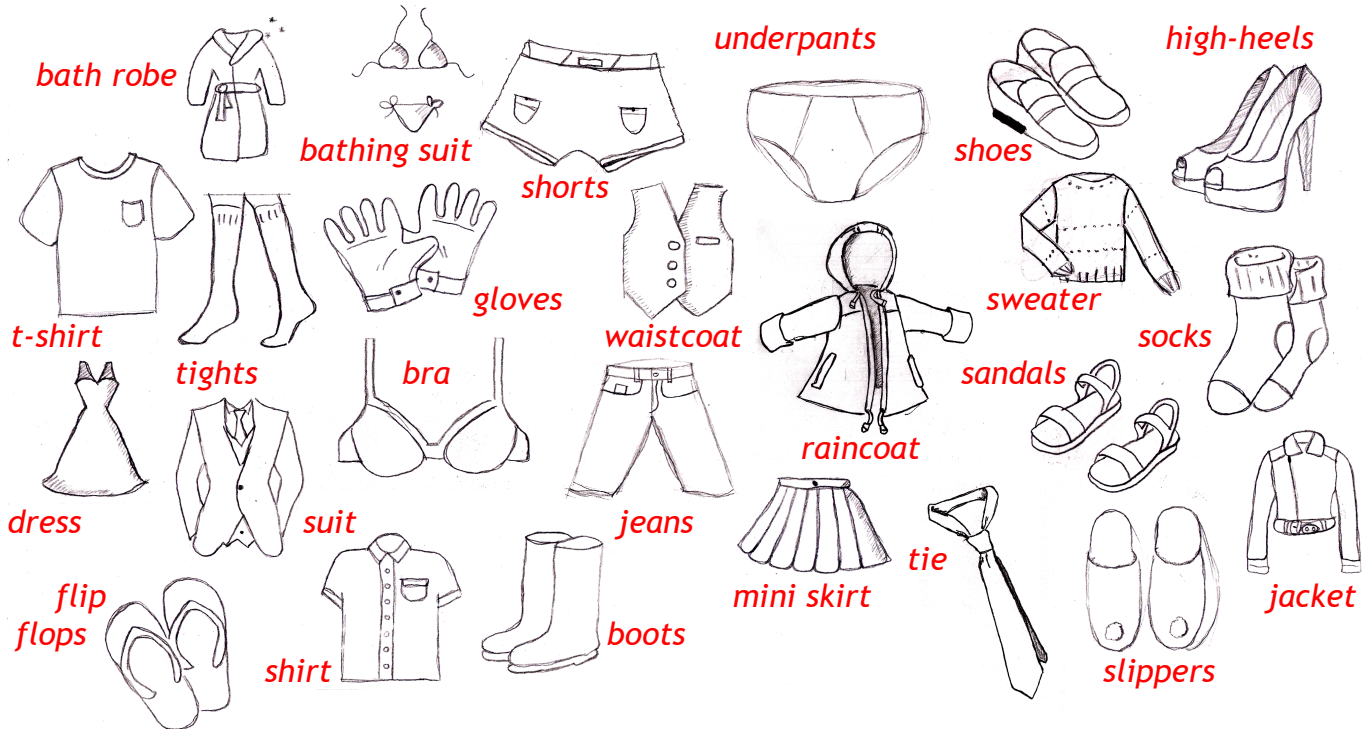
a song by Alan Smith Robertson designed to practise the topic “clothes”

<https://youtu.be/agG4P7Z9pQY>

Teacher's answer sheet. Length: approximately 30 - 40 minutes

## Pre-listening activities

- Can you name all the items of clothing in the picture below?



*Notice: The words for the items above are as they appear in the song (i.e. in the song you hear “bathing suit”, not “swimsuit” or “bikini”).*

- You're going to listen to a song. The title is “my favourite shirt”
  - Do you have a favourite item of clothing?
  - What is it? Why do you like it so much?
  - How often do you wear it?
  - What would you do if you lost it or if you ruined it?

*If your basic level and lower-intermediate level students have not studied the second conditional then it is best to avoid this question. On the other hand, if you think your students can handle them, feel free to ask more difficult questions regarding clothing preferences; favourite brands, how much money they spend on clothes a month, shopping online, buying during the sales... etc.*

Listen to the song once. Only ONE of the items of clothing in the picture above is not mentioned in the song. Can you identify it? The song is quite fast, so don't worry if you find this activity difficult.

*All the items of clothing in the picture are mentioned in the song EXCEPT the bra. Your students will probably not know the answer, but this exercise is actually designed to check students' listening comprehension & pronunciation.*

Listen to the song again, and choose the item of clothing that you hear

Verse 1: *underpants, shorts, jeans, suit, shoes, waistcoat, tie, shirt*

Verse 2: *flip-flops, boots, slippers, bathrobe, bathing-suit, shirt, raincoat, jacket*

Bridge: *t-shirt, miniskirt, gloves*

Verse 3: *high heels, tights, dress, sweater, socks, sandals*

### Post-listening activities

*Notice: You may find that basic level and lower-intermediate level students have problems answering some (or most) of these questions*

What do these other words related to clothes mean? Check the lyrics to see the context

- **striped** - *marked with stripes, or having stripes (like a zebra)*  
*notice: students commonly confuse “striped” with “stripped”!*
- **leather** - *a material made from the skin of an animal by tanning or a similar process*
- **to put on** - *to clothe yourself with a particular item of clothing*
- **cross-dressing** - *wearing clothes which are typically worn by members of the opposite sex*
- **fad** - *a fashion which doesn't last long, often followed enthusiastically by a certain group*
- **to dress up** - *to put on your best clothes*
- **to go together** - *to look good together*

Do you know any cross-dressers?

- Are there any celebrities or singers in your country who are cross-dressers?  
*Two historical crossdressers are Joan of Arc & Mulan. More recently, women began wearing men's suits at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, popularised first by a French actress called Sarah Bernhardt, and later on by Coco Chanel. In movies we have Toni Curtis & Jack Lemmon (Some Like it Hot), Dustin Hoffman (Tootsie) & Robin Williams (Mrs. Doubtfire, The Birdcage). Your students might also know international entertainers like Freddy Mercury (of Queen), Ru Paul, Lady Gaga, or lesser known drag-queens or actors.*

Tell the story of what happens in this song. What will happen next?

*You can do this activity as a group, or in pairs, depending on your students' level.*

*EXAMPLE ANSWER: This song tells the story of a man and his girlfriend. One day she discovers that sometimes he likes to wear women's clothes, so she gets angry and throws all his clothes out of the window. They will probably split up, or maybe she will come to understand him and they will get back together again.*

Do you think the singer's girlfriend was right to be mad about his cross-dressing? Why / Why not?

What do you think the expression “she gave me the finger” means?

*To give someone the finger means: “to make an obscene gesture by closing your fist and extending your middle finger upward”. It is used as an insult.*

What do you think the expression “I'm rubber and you are glue” means?

*The full expression is “I'm rubber and you're glue, your words bounce off me and stick to you”. It is a childish reply to an insult.*

The song ends with the line “white socks and sandals don't go together”.

- Do you agree?
- Do you wear white socks with sandals?
- Have you seen anyone wearing white socks with sandals? Who? Where?  
*I live in Spain, and normally the only people who wear white socks with sandals are tourists, and they are often ridiculed for this reason.*