

To wear the trousers

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

Edizioni ottobre 2021

1. Write only the clothes women wore in 19th century Britain.
Be careful, there are two extra words.
Use a dictionary to help you.

blouse - dress - trousers - shawl - shirt - apron - skirt

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2a. Read

Mum wears the trousers in our family.

Yes, she's the boss.

Really?

My mum and dad decide everything together. No one wears the trousers in our house, ha ha!

2b. Complete with the idiom of the month.

Grandad Bob doesn't _____ at home, Grandma Dot makes all the decisions.

Women started to wear trousers (literally) for fashion in the 1960/1970's and they also became more independent and started to wear the trousers (figuratively) thanks to the Women's Rights Movement.

3. In 21st century Britain men and women can do anything they want. Write an alternative for each choice listed.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| a. Get married | 1. |
| b. Have children | 2. |
| c. Go to work | 3. |
| d. Travel, live abroad | 4. |
| e. Live at home with family | 5. |
| f. Study at university | 6. |

4. Think about your future. Tick your choices in the table in exercise 3.**5. Write a letter to your future self.**

Dear future self,

Today is _____ (the date)

I am _____ years old (your age).

When I'm an adult, I want to _____

(your choices)

Remember: Only you should wear the trousers in your life: always make your own decisions.

Teacher's Notes

1.

blouse; dress; shawl; apron; skirt

Extra words: trousers, shirt

2b.

Grandad Bob doesn't wear the trousers at home, Grandma Dot makes all the decisions.

3. Sample answers:

- a. stay single;
- b. have no children;
- c. go to work;
- d. stay in one place;
- e. Live alone, with a partner or friends;
- f. get a job

4&5. Answers may vary.

This exercise is all about encouraging students to think about the future they can create for themselves and to make their own choices.