



edge style

WITH DANNA WEISS



Danna Weiss is a New York-based celebrity stylist and fashion trendsetter. This month, she answers five of the most commonly asked style questions by men.

1. I'm going to a black-tie event and do not have a tuxedo. What should I wear?

A tuxedo is a very useful thing to have, however, if you do not own one, no one can promise you can fit in. The best alternative would be to wear a black suit with a white collared dress shirt and a tie. The tie is a very important element to pulling off the look, and should either be black or silver silk. Typically, male members of the wedding party wear something similar.

2. What should I wear on a first date?

First dates can be tricky, especially if you're interested in having a second one. Whether your date is shallow or extremely open-minded, she will subconsciously be judging you regardless - not only your table manners and personality (of course!), but also your attire. There are a couple of things you have to know to clinch the first date look. First, dressing to compliment her style is key. Do not buy new clothes expressly for the date... be yourself. If she is super proppy, the muscle shirt just won't cut it. Next, where are you going? Dinner out? Dinner at home? A club? The opera? The idea is to look appropriate for the situation. There is nothing more embarrassing to a woman than standing out in a crowd because her date looks like a jerk. Third and last, consider the weather. This seems like an obvious detail, however I have seen many a man wearing his favorite short-sleeved Hawaiian shirt in November (not a good idea).

If you fall into the dinner at home category, keep in mind that you are still on a date, which means no sneakers. Clean jeans and a clean t-shirt will do, but neither should have holes, stains or graffiti on them. For dinner out on a first date, pants are necessary. You do not want your date to feel like you didn't bother to get dressed for her, or that the date wasn't important enough. A perfect ensemble would be flat front khakis or casual slacks with a button down shirt. This is almost always an appropriate ensemble even for the opera. If you are going to a club, you have a bit more creative freedom, but keep in mind if you are going to dinner prior, it should be something appropriate for both events. For instance, black pants and a button down shirt will work. If you want to play it safe in all categories, stick to solid colors. Taking fashion risks on your first date could be fatal - so beware.

3. Tucked or untucked?

Ah-ha, the age-old question. We know that you guys like the untucked version - somehow you feel that it makes you appear laid-back, but it can just make you look sloppy. Here is a simple rule that applies to most shirt/pant combinations. If the bottom of your shirt is more than six inches past the top of your pant, tuck it in. Do not tuck it in and keep it in - you'll risk looking like Pee Wee Herman. Tuck it in and pull it out a bit after the tuck. Otherwise you will look like Pee Wee.

4. Should the color of my belt match my shoes?

Yes, always. You can never go wrong with matching the belt to the shoes. There are some moments when you may be able to get away with not doing it, but your best bet is to stick to the rule. It does not matter what the material of the belt or shoe may be (i.e. suede, leather, canvas), as long as the color is similar. In fact, some men make it a fashion statement of theirs by wearing white jeans, a white t-shirt and a black belt and shoes.

5. What do I wear to meet her parents?

Meeting the parents can be rough - you've seen the movie. Again, look at the event, weather, and your girlfriend's style for obvious hints. Keep in mind there is a lot less range in "meet the parents" dress code than the first date dress code. Jeans are not acceptable, whether you are going to her home or a restaurant, it will not make the greatest impression. Any traditional color pant is appropriate, but avoid black for daytime. T-shirts are not acceptable either, unless you're going to a pool party (and you can forget about that tank top). My suggestion would be to pull out your nicest, cleanest button-down shirt. Be sure that it's pressed before you put it on. At times a jacket or suit could be required, so be sure to be well informed of any dress codes.

And remember, I'm not responsible for how you look naked.

If you have any style questions for Danna, please contact her at razor@razormagazine.com.