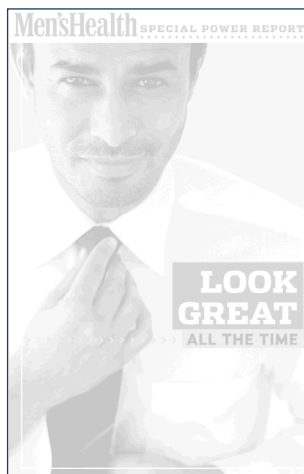


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# LOOK GREAT



ALL THE TIME

## YOUR QUESTIONS OF STYLE, ANSWERED

**F**or the most part, you're a perfect guy. You've got that symmetry thing nailed: an eye on each side of your nose, an arm in each sleeve, and quads and calves perfectly paired. Yet when you look in the mirror, imperfection stares back. Every man's got at least one—a bit of a gut or a face like a horse. But there are tricks to dressing and grooming that can hide those imperfections in an instant.

**> IF YOU SLOUCH...**A 70-year-old who stands straight looks decades younger, while a 40-year-old who slumps and shuffles looks like he's old. To maintain a perfect posture, try this: Stand against a wall, making sure that your shoulders and buttocks touch the wall. Slip your arm into the space between your lower back and the wall, and tilt your hips so that the extra space is eliminated. Hold the position for a count of 20 (seconds). Do it once a day for 3 weeks to ensure that good posture becomes a habit.

**> IF YOU'VE GOT LINES...**A short haircut is the simplest way to hide lines in your face. The lines around the face are downward, and long hair accentuates those creases. Kenneth Battelle, master stylist and owner of Kenneth's Salon in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, recommends clipping your hair to a length of one inch.

**> IF YOUR NOSE IS LARGE...**Wear your hair in a fuller style around your face. As for clothing, try to make your nose appear smaller by drawing the eye downward and outward by buying jackets with wider shoulders and layering clothing (T-shirt, open-collared shirt, jacket, or sport coat).

**> IF YOU ARE SHORT AND/OR HEAVY...**Wear garments and accessories that accentuate the vertical and deemphasize the hori-

zontal—for example, a V-neck sweater. Choose colors with very subtle color contrasts to unify the length of your body.

**> IF YOU'RE THIN AND/OR TALL...**Wear clothing that makes you look less long and more substantial, such as bulky sweaters and double-breasted suits.

**> IF YOU'VE GOT A LONG FACE...**Favor crewneck sweaters over V-necks; they round you out. So do spread collars. And don't slick your hair back—you'll accentuate the cone shape of your head.

**> IF YOU'VE GOT A ROUND FACE...**Go with V-neck sweaters, pointed collars, and angular eyeglasses instead of round ones. Wear monochromatic colors, and make sure they fit properly—no baggy hip-hop styles.

**> IF YOUR TEETH ARE YELLOW...**Whitening strips do work, but the change may not be drastic enough for you to actually notice a difference. As for whitening toothpaste, it will "only take off the surface grime from your teeth—it won't completely bleach them—so they'll probably end up just two or three shades whiter, even after weeks of use," says Clifford Whall, Ph.D., director of the American Dental Association's Seal of Acceptance program. If you want to see a radical change, have a professional bleach job and your choppers will end up eight or nine shades whiter.

**> USE CLOTHING TO CONVEY POWER, PROSPERITY, AND SELF-CONFIDENCE.**

Having style means having a clear sense of how you want to appear and knowing how to achieve that appearance. Your clothes are an extension of yourself.

**> AVOID THIS LOOK.** Leave the sweatsuit to rap stars and Olympic hopefuls. "The only kind of suit that will make a positive first impression has two or three buttons and is not made of velour," says Brian Boyé, *Men's Health* fashion director. "Stick to the classics for party garb: a pressed shirt and trousers or jeans, or a suit and tie, depending on the occasion."

**> THE TELL-TALE SIGN OF QUALITY PANTS.** Good pants add a piece of fabric to the inner lining from the crotch down. It's called a crotch piece, and it's a true hallmark of quality. It reduces abrasion and prolongs the life of the pants.

**> FLAT-FRONT IT.** Pleated pants only add more material to your waist, which makes it look as if you're smuggling a football under your belt. Flat-front pants show off a thin waist or help disguise a heftier one.

**> ON THE CUFFS.** Men 5'10" or under should wear cuffs 1½ inches wide; taller men should wear cuffs 1¾ inches wide.

**> IN THE POCKET.** Fashion designers prefer the on-seam pocket, since its lines are the cleanest.

**> BUY A PAIR OF KHAKIS.** These are your wardrobe's multitool—in a pinch, they can get you out of nearly any fashion emergency. Impromptu Sunday brunch with her parents? Add a dress shirt and shoes and you're set. Night out at the beach? Leave your flip-flops on and pull on a crisp T-shirt. You can wear khakis year-round (stick with darker tones and heavier weights in winter), but they're a

summer staple: less restrictive than jeans, infinitely more attractive than shorts. Pick a moderately priced flat-front pair that fits low on your hips.

**> FOCUS ON FABRICS.** Material is the anchor of style—begin with a great fabric, and you can't go wrong.

### The perfect briefcase

Like Samsonites at baggage claim, a lot of briefcases look alike. That's because quality is in the details.

**1. TOP-GRAIN COWHIDE** (check for a stamp inside the flap). It's more durable than corrected grain, split leather, or calfskin. "If you're going to be banging it around while commuting, go with a sturdy leather," says Lloyd Boston, style expert for NBC's *Today* show and a host on the Style network. "If you have an assistant and a chauffeur, you can probably get away with a softer leather like kid or calfskin."

**2. A STURDY HANDLE WITH REINFORCED STITCHING.** Oil from your hands can cause conventional thread to fray over time.

**3. A STEEL BAR HIDDEN BETWEEN THE LAYER OF LEATHER AND THE LINING.** It should be at least an inch wide and directly beneath the handle. It helps the case keep its shape.

**4. A BRASS LOCK.** A brass-plated steel lock can chip easily.

**5. A LEATHER LINING.** It can be a softer leather than the exterior because it won't receive as much wear.

**6. HEAVY COTTON OR NYLON STITCHES AT THE EDGES.** The closer the stitches are to ⅛ inch from the edges of the leather, the better the bag.

**7. KNOBS ON THE BOTTOM.** These will protect the leather when you set the case down.

## Dress Great for Any Occasion

**T**he key is to avoid anything you'd wear to a board meeting or feel overdressed in at your favorite bar.

**> FLAT-FRONT, BLACK COTTON SLACKS** (try Hugo Boss) work well. A pair of straight-leg indigo jeans (Seven) will also do the trick. Pair that with a colorful

cotton shirt in anything from baby blue to funky stripes.

**> FOR A DRESSIER EVENT, ADD A SPORT JACKET** (no front pocket, please). Get this right and you'll be keeping the phone number of that girl in the little black dress in your little black book.