

How-to-do-it

Dress for a formal event

NATALIE TIMPERIO
SENIOR INSIDEOUT EDITOR

“Sooooo...” This is most likely the word you dim-wittedly say to yourself as you stare down your closet in hopes of finding some spiffy suit or dazzling dress magically appearing in front of your very eyes. Too bad your fairy godmother isn’t around to grant you whatever your heart desires. Heck, guess that’s only reserved for Disney, or the users of some type of hallucinogenic drug.

Dressing for a formal event ain’t so easy, especially when you know your time is better spent at clubs doing hell knows what. Unfortunately, club wear is far from suitable if you’re attending a serious, formal event.

Well, you want to dress to impress without wearing your high school grad getup? This rhetorical question implies that yes, darn tootin’ do you wanna know how to dress for a formal event!

Generally your invite should indicate the type of formal event. A formal event is, for example, the wedding of your third cousin (or second – either way you made out with her so she can’t be your first) or, the Silhouette’s Eightieth Anniversary Reunion. This will help to determine how done up you need to be for the occasion. Formal events can be categorized into five areas:

1. White Tie: Men wear a black tuxedo with tails in addition to a white shirt, a white vest and a white tie. Women wear an evening gown.

2. Black Tie: Men wear a black tuxedo without tails, including a white shirt, a black vest



Avoid looking like a country bumpkin by following these smart and simple rules for formal attire.

or cummerbund (a broad waist sash) and a black tie. Women wear an evening gown or cocktail dress.

3. Black Tie Optional: Men wear a black tuxedo or a dark suit, a white or soft-coloured shirt and a black tie (optional...duh). Women wear an evening gown, a cocktail dress, or a skirt and shirt combo.

4. Creative Black Tie: Men wear a black tuxedo, a colourful shirt, a tie (of any colour, gasp!) and a cummerbund. Women wear an evening gown, a cocktail dress and may accessorize (di-di-diva!).

5. Semi-Formal: And this is where most of us fit in just fine. Men wear a dark, business-type of suit, with a coloured shirt and tie. Women wear a cocktail dress or skirt and shirt combo.

Dress pants for women are acceptable, after all this is 2010 not the 1800’s.

If all else fails, show up in white sport socks, tighty whities, and a pink dress shirt of some sort. Eh, if Tom Cruise can rock it I’m sure you can too. (Disclaimer: *the Silhouette* is not responsible for any arrests and/or charges that may result from appearing in such attire).

SEX and the STEEL CITY How soon is too soon?

Is it ever “too soon”? Know when, and how, to make the call

STEPHANIE HAUCK
THE SILHOUETTE

The beginning of a new relationship is often thought to be a time of lust and excitement. For some of us, however, settling into a couple’s routine can be similar to walking on egg shells. Certain topics related to the world of sex can be quite delicate at this point and it seems that one faulty step can lead us astray.

In the same way that you need prerequisites to take certain classes, couples should be aware of the stages, or prerequisites, that are needed before moving forward to different phases in a relationship. It becomes a question of how soon is too soon.

The lights are dimmed, the mood is perfect – do you lean in and lock lips? It’s difficult to predict the perfect moment to introduce a new stage in the relationship and sometimes over-thinking it can leave you stranded. None of us want to regret a spur of the moment decision. “One of the single most important signs that a relationship is ready to move to the next level of intimacy is that both partners have a feeling of comfort and openness in discussing sexual issues,” says “loveologist” Wendy Stgar. This means going beyond the initial thoughts of ripping each other’s clothes off and screaming “Oh yes!” to the dirty. Rather, it entails getting the chance to truly understand how you both feel (emotionally) first.

Since we aren’t living in a superhero fantasy and therefore aren’t telepathic, it can

sometimes be hard to plan or determine when the right time is for what. But timing isn’t everything.

“There really is no magic number that works for every couple when it comes to how many dates, weeks or months to wait for sex,” says Yvonne Fulbright, writer for *Fox on Sex*.

“Different wait periods work (or don’t) for different couples”. So, maybe it is time to throw away your calendar and just go with the flow. Sometimes, you really *do* just know and, for those who really just *don’t* know, then being honest with yourself and true to your character is best way to go about it.

Of course, introducing new things into a relationship doesn’t always involve sex or sexually related activities. In fact, when you think about it, there truly is an entire array of topics that could enter the realm of our dating lives.

Stgar says, “A relationship [is much like] a container for all the experiences that happen between you and your partner... You want to make sure that the container is strong enough to hold the mystery, passion and sometimes pain [that can accompany any stage in a relationship].”

So maybe there really is no general formula for how soon is too soon. Rather, it is something that each couple needs to assess individually as well as together. Relationships shouldn’t be about tiptoeing around each other, certain topics or stages.

Perhaps we should instead focus on

being ourselves, and sharing a piece of ourselves with another person. And remember: not everything in a couple’s experience needs to go smoothly to be a success. The bumps

and grinds can very well be that which makes for a vivacious relationship.

“...not everything in a couple’s experience needs to go smoothly to be a success. The bumps and grinds can very well be that which makes for a vivacious relationship.”

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