Fashion Trends for Fall/Winter 2026-27: What Reports Say

Name Date Class

Reading

1 Every season, magazines and websites announce what people will wear next. The clothes in this lesson appeared on runways in New York, London, Milan, and Paris in February and March 2026. They are meant for the northern winter, which the industry calls Fall/Winter 2026-27. The reading is based on reports from Marie Claire, Who What Wear, Coveteur, and other outlets. These reports are editors' interpretations, not measurements of what shoppers buy, and they often disagree. Where several reports agree, this lesson says so.

2 Outerwear is one of the clearest themes. Marie Claire's style director wrote that on some runways the coat was so strong that the outfit under it hardly mattered, with plush fur collars, sweeping wool overcoats, and generous proportions. Who What Wear, however, described coats at Prada and Jil Sander that were cut so close to the body that they looked almost a size too small. Both reports can be true, because they describe different collections. A second theme was **layering**. At Prada, fifteen models each walked four times, and one piece was removed every round to show a new outfit underneath.

3 Sharp **tailoring** returned in several reports. Coveteur listed skirt suits at Ferragamo, Tom Ford, and Jil Sander, and Who What Wear called them one of the most **versatile** trends of the season. Who What Wear also reported a **revival** of tuxedo dressing, with Anthony Vaccarello at Saint Laurent paying homage to Le Smoking, the tuxedo suit that Yves Saint Laurent first showed in 1966. Reports disagree about the shape, though. Who What Wear said that very fitted **silhouettes** are returning and oversized shapes are shrinking, while Marie Claire said the most modern tailoring has softer proportions and a lived-in feel.

4 Texture appeared in several reports. Coveteur described a Bottega Veneta collection full of fur, pile, shearling, and fringe. Marie Claire wrote about tapestry-like brocades and **faux** fur that looked and felt as plush as the real thing, and it described some fabrics as **tactile**, meaning they invite touch. It also noted **sculptural** ruffles. Who What Wear gathered **embellished** coats and beaded gowns under the label "modern heirlooms," clothes designed to be kept for many years. Fur alone tells you little about the material: Schiaparelli, according to Who What Wear, combined printed bottoms made to look like fur with coats made from real fur. Marie Claire also reported **heritage** knitwear and called the Fair Isle sweater a classic cold-weather **staple** that had returned at Altuzarra, Khaite, and Marni.

5 Color reports are less consistent. Pantone, a company that publishes color forecasts, released its **palette** for New York Fashion Week in February 2026. It described **subdued** earth tones and neutrals alongside a few daring bright shades. Marie Claire wrote that Alaïa, Balenciaga, and Hermès dressed models in **saturated** tomato red from head to toe. Who What Wear said purple appeared in practically every show. Wallpaper magazine wrote that black took over the runways, while The Zoe Report called Milan loud and candy-colored. Plaid gave outfits a **distinctive** look: Coveteur called plaid, tartan, and check one of the biggest trends, from shirts at Chloé to fur-trimmed tartan coats at Burberry.

6 Some reported trends are small details. Coveteur described the "useless belt," a belt worn loosely for decoration instead of to hold clothes up, as ever-present in Milan. Yet the same website used the term for the spring 2026 season, and FASHION magazine wrote about the return of the "unnecessary belt" in 2023. A detail that keeps coming back is not new, and giving it a name may be one way to make it feel new.

7 None of these reports measures sales. Who What Wear itself notes that looks that reach magazine covers do not always end up in shoppers' carts. Brigitte Chartrand, chief buying and merchandising officer at the online luxury retailer Net-a-Porter, named seven trends her store was backing, including embellished occasionwear and extremely high thigh-high boots. None of the reports read for this lesson includes sales figures for any of them.

Vocabulary Matching

Match each word from the reading with its meaning. Write the letter on the line.

1	**layering**	_____	**A**	making clothes that fit precisely
2	**tailoring**	_____	**B**	soft and not bright or strong
3	**versatile**	_____	**C**	very strong and deep in color
4	**revival**	_____	**D**	decorated with added details
5	**silhouettes**	_____	**E**	having a bold, solid shape
6	**faux**	_____	**F**	easy to recognize as different
7	**tactile**	_____	**G**	the overall outlines of garments
8	**sculptural**	_____	**H**	useful in many different situations
9	**embellished**	_____	**I**	appealing to the sense of touch
10	**heritage**	_____	**J**	a basic item used regularly
11	**staple**	_____	**K**	a set of colors used together
12	**palette**	_____	**L**	return of something old to popularity
13	**subdued**	_____	**M**	made to imitate a natural material
14	**saturated**	_____	**N**	wearing several garments at once
15	**distinctive**	_____	**O**	traditional and linked to history

Fill in the Blank

Choose a word from the box to complete each sentence. Use each word once. The words are already in the correct form.

distinctive	**embellished**	**faux**	**heritage**	**layering**	**palette**	**revival**	**saturated**	**sculptural**	**staple**
subdued	**tactile**	**tailoring**	**versatile**						

1 _____ a shirt, a sweater, and a coat helps you stay warm on cold days.

2 Good _____ makes a jacket fit the shoulders and waist exactly.

3 A plain black coat is _____ because you can wear it almost anywhere.

4 The 1990s _____ brought baggy jeans back to the shops.

5 She bought a _____ fur coat because she did not want real fur.

6 The thick, soft knit had a _____ quality that made people want to touch it.

7 The coat had a _____ collar that held a bold shape.

8 She wore a jacket _____ with beads and tiny mirrors.

9 The brand is known for its _____ knitwear, based on old regional patterns.

10 A good coat is a _____ of any winter wardrobe.

11 The show used a warm _____ of brown, cream, and rust.

12 The restaurant had _____ lighting and quiet music.

13 The photographer used _____ blues and greens that looked very deep.

14 Her _____ green coat made her easy to find in the crowd.

Comprehension Questions

Answer in your notebook or discuss with a partner. Questions 10 to 12 are IELTS-style.

1 According to the reading, where and when did the clothes in this lesson appear, and what kind of reports describe them?

2 What is the difference between the coat reports from Marie Claire and Who What Wear, and why can both be true?

3 What happened at the Prada show, and how does it relate to the theme of layering?

4 Which fashion houses and designers does the reading connect with tailoring, and what does it say about the revival of Le Smoking?

5 How do Who What Wear and Marie Claire disagree about the shape of tailoring, and what does the writer conclude about trends from this disagreement?

6 Why does the reading say that fur alone tells you little about the material of a garment?

7 What is meant by "modern heirlooms," and which fabrics and decorations does the reading connect with this idea?

8 The reading says color reports are "less consistent." Describe the different color claims and explain what this suggests about how reliable any single report is.

9 Why does the writer point out that the "useless belt" has been reported before, and what might this suggest about how trend reports use names?

IELTS-Style Questions

10 **True, False, or Not Given:** *"The reports used for this lesson agree that coats should be oversized."* Explain your answer using evidence from the reading.

11 **Yes, No, or Not Given:** *"The writer believes that fashion reports are worthless."* Explain your answer using evidence from the reading.

12 **Author's purpose:** Why does the writer end by saying that none of the reports includes sales figures? Is its purpose to warn readers about a limit of the reports, to criticize fashion writers, or something else?

True or False

Circle T (true) or F (false) according to the reading. Write a correction for each false statement on the dotted line.

1 **T / F** The clothes in this lesson appeared on runways in February and March 2026.

2 **T / F** Marie Claire and Who What Wear both described coats as very oversized.

3 **T / F** At Prada, one piece of clothing was removed from each model's outfit in every round.

4 **T / F** Marie Claire said that very fitted tailoring is the only direction for the season.

5 **T / F** Le Smoking is a tuxedo suit that was first shown in 1966.

6 **T / F** Marie Claire wrote that some faux fur looked and felt as plush as real fur.

7 **T / F** The reading says that fur on the runway was always real fur.

8 **T / F** All the reports agreed that red was the main color of the season.

9 **T / F** The term "useless belt" had been used before the Fall/Winter 2026-27 shows.

10 **T / F** The reports used for this lesson include sales figures for the trends.

Discussion Questions

Talk with a partner or in a small group. The questions move from personal to more abstract.

1 What do you usually wear in cold weather? Which of the trends in the reading would you actually wear?

2 Do you prefer big, loose coats or fitted coats? What do you like about your choice?

3 Which do you notice more when you meet someone: the shape of their clothes, the color, or the texture?

4 Do you like to layer clothes? What is your favorite combination for a cold day?

5 Where do you learn about new styles: shops, social media, friends, magazines, or somewhere else?

6 The reading says fur on the runway can be real or faux. How do you feel about using real fur, faux fur, or neither in clothes?

7 What are the most important colors in the clothes that people wear in your country in winter? Do you think they change from year to year?

8 Pantone and other companies suggest colors for a season. Should an organization be able to influence what colors people wear?

9 The reading says the reports do not include sales figures. What information would you want before believing a trend report?

10 Do you think clothes should be bought for many years or for one season? What are the advantages of each choice?

11 Some reports in the reading disagree with each other. How do you decide which source to trust when experts disagree?

12 The "useless belt" has no practical use. Is fashion only useful if it is practical, or can decoration be a good enough reason?

13 Fashion companies show winter clothes in February and March, months before the season. Does that seem a sensible system? Why or why not?

14 Do you think following trends helps people express themselves, or does it make them look the same? Give reasons.

Language Focus: Compound Adjectives with Hyphens

A compound adjective joins two or more words with a hyphen to describe a noun: a noun or adjective + a participle or another word, placed before the noun. The first part is not made plural, even when the noun is plural.

In the reading:

- "…tapestry-**like** brocades…"
- "…a classic **cold-weather** staple…"
- "…**fur-trimmed** tartan coats at Burberry."

Practice: Rewrite the underlined idea as a hyphenated adjective before the noun: *"She wore a dress that reaches the floor."*

Activities and speed challenge
englishbridges.com/lessons/fall-winter-2026-fashion

Notes