

The New Men's Suit

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Between the years 1920 and 1930, the world saw a lot of shifts in things that were once a staple in life, especially in fashion. particularly in Menswear. The style of suits had changed significantly and laid the foundation for what we know today as the traditional men's suit.

Menswear changed up the manner of how an man dressed during the 1920s-1930s. in these times a man always wore a suit, for their day job, evening wear, and a night out, a man always had on a suit. But during the 1920s to 1930s, the style had changed to be more simplistic and comfortable than years before. The starch collars and three-piece suits where now softer with one or two button suit jackets. Colors remained neutral all over the suit, but the accessories were now full of vibrant colors. Suits were also lighter in weight than previous decades. Using wool, wool tweed, wool flannel and corduroy significantly reduced the weight of a man's suit than what was previously used. Jackets now closed at the center of the heart and gave way to notch lapels that became wider as time went by, at its most excessiveness, when buttoned up jackets would completely cover vest, showing only the shirt collar and tie (*1920S men's Fashion: What did men wear in the 1920s?*).

With department stores on the rise and clothing becoming more accessible, men's suits where no longer for those in cities, but also reaching rural areas and those who lived outside big metropolitan areas. During this period the traditional men's suit was a slim fitting tailored suit with a high waisted jacket and narrow shoulders. This gave the man a slimming silhouette. But the roar of the Jazz era and the carefree attitude gave way to the boxier suit. A longer fitting coat with dropped shoulders and baggier trousers were the staple of those who were fans of the genre, influenced by life in the city Jazz played a major role in the way suits were styled, similarly to how woman wore flappers instead of shaped dresses.

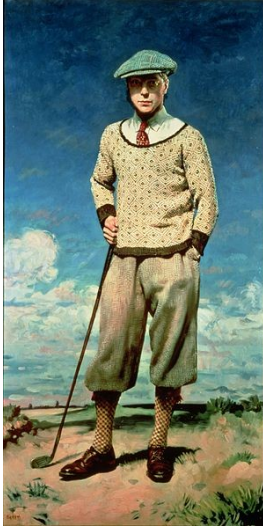
Other significant development in men's fashion occurred in two unique kind of trousers, the oxford bags and the plus-fours. Oxfords, named by the students at the university, were wide legged trousers. It is generally agreed upon that this style came to light by the rowers on the oxford crew teams and how they wore these trousers over their shorts. The students at the university helped spread this style, and as such with all fashion the trousers became wider and wider once reaching forty-four inches in width. The plus-fours were a rendition of knickers at the time. They were short legged trousers that gathered around the knee and were baggier than their predecessor. This style added four more inches of fabric, hence the name, and fastened around the knee while

the extra material hung over the band. Jockeys still use this style of pants and at this time was a popular use for men during days of activities at the racetrack (Reddy, 2018).

An iconic figure for menswear at the time was none other than Edward, Prince of Wales. Being a major trendsetter for men's fashion, men on the American side of the Atlantic were already trying to imitate the way they dressed in the U.K. on both sides of the world they aspired to be who Prince Edward was, a playboy icon with his morning suits and tuxedos, his golfing apparel also inspired many men to use this athletic wear as casual wear too.

Men much like women, wore accessories, but it was more subtly and used more to complement the attire rather than be an eye catcher. Men during this era generally kept their hair short and wore hats such as a fedora, felt hat, trilby, flat caps or straw boater which depended on the season. Men also ditched the lace up boots for lower cut oxfords or brogues.

This era of men's apparel set the foundation of what we've come to know as the men's suit. Now not only do men have a range of tailoring sizes and cuts, but the spectrum of colors, accessories, shoes and fabric are limitless. This era certainly set the grounds for how a man should wear a suit. And while fashion today has led to a different direction for men's apparel, the suit has stood the test of time and hasn't seen any major change since the 1920's only subtle changes to fit, fabrics, and tailoring. But the same suits of that decade could still be put together today.



## Bibliography

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