



Fashion

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This is a fairly complex topic, since it depends on the effect I'm going for; I might start with a t-shirt, which will end up being the focal point, whereas other times I'll use accessories, like a statement necklace, as a starting point to create the rest of the outfit. For the purpose of this discussion, let's say that there are two different approaches you can take when styling:

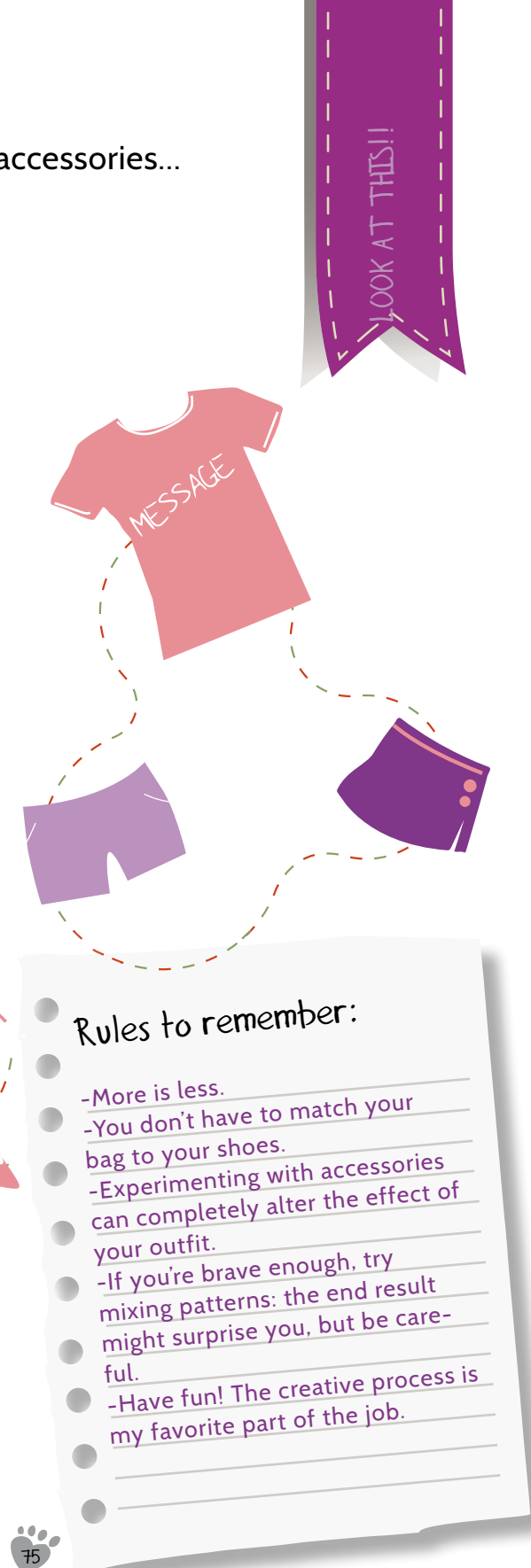
1) Creating an outfit using a specific item of clothing...

like a message tee, for example. Once we have our centerpiece picked out, it's time to dress our lower bodies, with any one of the following options: shorts, a skirt (mini or maxi), pants, colored jeans, or another longer shirt for layering to create the illusion you're wearing a skirt...the options are endless. Next up is footwear (I don't know why, but I always choose my shoes before my purse). Once we've chosen our shoes, our tendency will be to look for matching purse (speaking of which, let's

try to break this habit, since not only is it a bit passé in the fashion world, it tends to be more expensive). The last step is to accessorize, typically with bracelets, rings, necklaces (but only if the outfit really needs it) or earrings, even though I don't wear them 99.9% of the time. However, if you are an earrings person, I only have one piece of advice: never wear earrings and a necklace at the same time; it's overkill. There's an old proverb that applies here: less is definitely more.

2) Creating an outfit using accessories...

which is not the norm, but let's say that you're put in a situation that necessitates it: you've just been given an amazing handbag, a purse that you've lusted over forever, and now that you have it, it makes you feel like the luckiest woman alive, simply because you get to walk down the street wearing it on your arm. Fine, maybe I'm going overboard here, but you get the point. So, we have the purse, but otherwise we're naked, so our first step is to decide what colors go best with it. Once we've figured out the color scheme, it's time to go through our closets to find the items that work, coordinating tops and bottoms or dresses. And finally, we'll pick out shoes and jewelry, being sure to keep all of the rules we just went over in mind.



My Favorite Items of Clothing

(the essentials, the basics, the things I can't live without) v

Every woman's closet is uniquely her own—and for some women, it's an almost sacred space. Sometimes I'll end up in my walk-in closet, just hanging out in there for hours at a time, until I realize I should probably go outside for a few minutes order to clear my mind...then I dive back into that vortex of fashion-induced madness. What I know is that there are 20 essential items—10 for summer, 10 for winter—that have to be in my closet:

Summer

> **A pair of classic jean shorts.**

Absolutely essential for going shopping, a day at the beach, etc.: there's no shortage of options for styling this item.

> **A striped shirt.**

A classic that gets updated every summer in different colors and styles, but is,

without a doubt, the summer staple par excellence. It goes perfectly with white pants, or with a navy blue skirt and sandals.

> **A straw purse.**

Whether it's a large tote for taking to the beach, or a smaller version for daily use, it's the *it* bag of summer.

> **A pair of camel-colored flat sandals.**

I love black, but since we're talking about the perfect summer sandals, I have to go with camel. Take your time picking them out; remember, it's an investment that will last the whole summer. They should be attractive, of course, but above all look for comfort.

> **Either a fedora or a Panama hat.**

I have both styles, although this past year I've used the latter more often than not. It's the perfect accessory for the hottest months of summer, and a useful ally when it comes to protecting our faces from the sun's UV rays.

> **Sunglasses.**

I'm addicted to them: I have quite the collection already, and every summer I find myself with three or four new pairs. I love to change it up and wear different styles all the time, but if you have to choose two models for the summer, invest in a pair with colored plastic frames and reflective lenses, also in an attention-grabbing color, for a sporty, beachy look, and another, chicer pair in tortoiseshell for more sophisticated and formal looks.

> **A maxi dress.**

This is a basic that, in addition to being about as comfortable as it gets, is also easy to find in pretty much any store. If you wake up one morning and don't feel particularly inspired, or if you're incapable

of putting together another outfit featuring the same pair of jean shorts or another boring t-shirt, a maxi dress with a pretty necklace, a large tote and flat sandals will save you a lot of frustration, I guarantee it..

> **A mini cross-body bag.**

Summertime is when we can cut ourselves some slack and really enjoy life, and even though I love big purses as much as the next person, this is the perfect season to get rid of some of our baggage, so to speak ...and a small cross-body bag ensures that your hands are free, all the better to enjoy a delicious ice cream cone. Not a bad idea, right?

> **A light, waterproof parka.**

Even though the arrival of good weather normally means banishing our coats to the back of the closet, there's always the chance of a summer storm. For cooler summer days like these, parkas are perfect; they do double duty as a winter staple as well. The best part is, when you wear a parka with shorts and sneakers, you're not sacrificing style for comfort.

> **A short dress.**

Last but not least, a short dress is indispensable in any summer wardrobe. On especially hot days, I'll wear it with a pair of sandals (flats or with heels, depending on my mood and my plans for the day) and a statement necklace that adds just the right amount of flair.

My favorites? I have two short black dresses that I style in countless different ways. They play a big part in my summer wardrobe, and are a must-buy for surviving the summer in style.



Winter

> Jeans.

The importance of having a pair of jeans in your closet that fit like a glove is something that I'm sure you're tired of hearing, but the truth is, decades after they first became popular, they continue to be an essential item in every woman's closet.

> Boyfriend jeans.

I have two pairs and I love them; I might even wear them more than my "normal" jeans. They go perfectly with high heels for more formal occasions, or with a pair of ballet flats if you're going shopping and want to be as comfortable as possible.

> A fake-fur coat.

Whether it's in a more discreet black or in a brighter color, a (fake) fur coat always has a place in my closet. I love wearing it when I travel to colder climes.

> Rain boots.

Obviously this depends on where you live, but in my case, being from rainy Galicia as well as having to travel constantly to cities like London, Milan and Paris means that rain boots are a must-have item in my closet.

> Ugg boots.

Although many people consider them outdated, for me they're my go-to boot every winter. If you're able, buy the

originals; the difference between them and the knock-offs is night and day. They're light, super comfortable and keep my feet warm and cozy. I wear them for traveling, walking my dog, going shopping, going to work...OK, I don't wear them at work. They're not suitable for every situation, I guess.

> A knit sweater.

It's a winter necessity, year after year. Even though color trends change seasonally, they're a classic and a must for surviving the cold winter months.

> Scarves and hats.

I love both of them equally, in all styles and colors. As long as they're comfortable and keep me warm, who cares if they're fashionable?

> A black purse.

A good quality black purse is obligatory for the winter months. It's my favorite color for the season, and I don't know what I would do without these four beautiful bags in my closet: my Givenchy Antigona, my Alexander Wang Rocco duffel, my 3.1 Philip Lim Pashly satchel and my Proenza Schouler PS11 mini. As different as they are, they're all equally indispensable.

> A leather jacket.

If you love the color black as much as I do, then it will be easy to choose a color here. However, if you lean more toward earth

tones, then brown leather is also an option and just as classic. Black or brown, a leather jacket really is a **fashion basic**. If you're having trouble deciding on a color, then my order of preference is: black, brown, then red.

> **A blazer.**

A good addition to any office wardrobe is a blazer. They dress up any outfit without losing valuable **style** points. Again, my color rank is the following: black, tan (specifically: camel) and then white.

> **A winter skirt.**

There are many different kinds of skirts that are suitable for winter wear. I normally tend towards the ones that are a bit more unique, usually with some kind of pattern. Remember: if you make your skirt the star of your outfit, don't forget that the top and other accessories should be supporting players, otherwise you risk overdoing it and ruining the entire look.



leather jacket



blazer

Order of color preference: black, camel, white

jeans

"If you're having trouble deciding on a color, then my order of preference is: black, brown, then red"



ugg boots

ESSENTIAL

fake fur coat

black purse