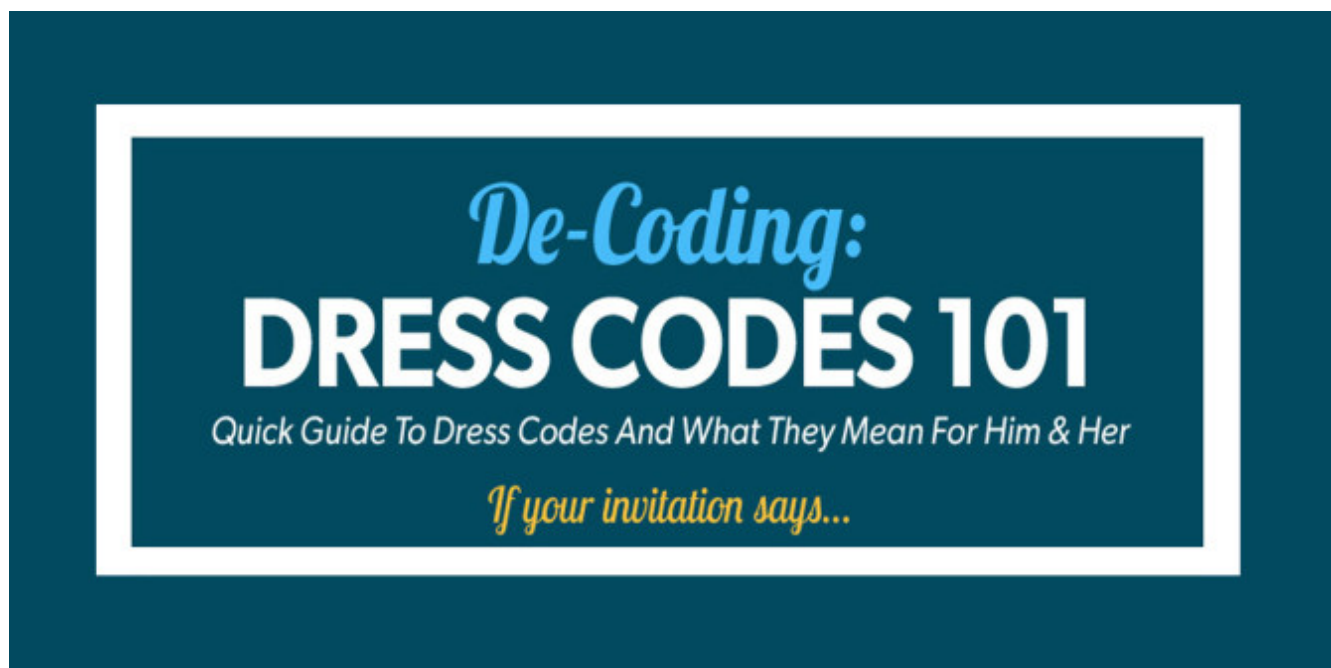


# Unlocking the Hidden Meaning of the Different Dress Codes

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ROFL



Have you ever been called to a [meeting for work](#) [10 Tricks to Make You Seem Like The Smartest Person in a Meeting](#) [10 Tricks to Make You Seem Like The Smartest Person in a Meeting](#) Picture this, you walk into work one day, thinking everything is normal. Then your boss drops the ultimate bombshell on you: there's a meeting, and you had no idea it was coming. [Read More](#) and told to dress in a certain dress code? Has anyone ever invited you to [dinner](#) [Cook More Creative Meals With These 6 Cooking Shows](#) [Cook More Creative Meals With These 6 Cooking Shows](#) Want to cook up something a little more creative in the kitchen? These TV shows will spark you with inspiration and push you in the right direction. [Read More](#) and told you to wear business casual clothes? Understanding all of the different dress codes can be confusing. There's more to it than just just dressing up or dressing down. In fact, there's a shocking level of fine details between the different types of dress codes, as outlined on the infographic below!

Have you heard of all the different dress codes below? What's your favorite to wear? Hit the comments section below and share your thoughts!

# De-Coding: DRESS CODES 101

Quick Guide To Dress Codes And What They Mean For Him & Her

*If your invitation says...*

## CASUAL

**Casual is basically a non-dress code, and you can wear comfortable clothing.**

### FOR HIM:

Think Homer Simpson. Tee shirt, jeans and sneakers are appropriate. You may also opt to step it up a notch with khakis, cargos, a polo shirt or henley and still fit in just fine.

**Tip:** Avoid inflammatory or otherwise offensive graphic tees!



### FOR HER:

Pull out your favorite jeans! You can opt for a comfortable tee or dress things up a bit with a stylish top, jewelry or even a blazer. Depending on the nature of the event, your footwear can range safely from sneakers to heels to boots.

**Tip:** For outdoor events, sneakers are better as heels can sink into soft ground!



## BUSINESS CASUAL

**Business Casual is what many people would typically wear to work at the office.**

Wear a pair of nice khakis paired with a polo shirt or other collared shirt. Dress shoes or loafers are appropriate.



**Tip:** Avoid the wrinkles; iron your shirt and pants! Patterned collared shirts are a nice option for a less dressy feel than their solid counterparts.

Dress pants or khakis with a fashionable top is appropriate. A casual skirt is also an option. Feel free to dress up your outfit with heels, jewelry and/or accessories if desired.

**Tip:** Wear your hair in your everyday style, and avoid overdoing it with makeup or perfume.



## SMART CASUAL

**Smart Casual (or dressy casual) is basically a combination of casual, business casual, and business dress codes, where you can combine them into a "smart" ensemble.**

This is your opportunity to pair denim with a sport coat. Khakis, trousers, vests and ties are other great options to bring into the mix.

**Tip:** If opting for jeans, your denim should look somewhat dressy, fresh and sharp with no wear or holes.



It's safest to go with nice slacks or a skirt, though you could also wear a nice pair of dark jeans dressed up with a collared or otherwise dressy top. Throw on a blazer for an extra touch of class.

**Tip:** For Smart Casual, you should look sharp, stylish and neatly put together.

## BUSINESS/INFORMAL

**Informal attire may be a misnomer as it does call for a bit of formality (not to be confused with Casual attire). Business and Informal attire is more sophisticated than Smart Casual, often signaling the need for suits, ties and dresses.**



Wear a business suit with tie. You may also opt for nice slacks with a sports jacket and tie.

**Tip:** For Business and Informal dress codes, stick to business colors: black, navy blue, gray or brown.

Wear a business suit or business style dress with heels (high or low).



## SEMI-FORMAL

**Semi-formal attire is more fancy than business attire but just a notch below formal tuxedos and fancy gowns.**

Wear a dark suit with long tie.

**Tip:** The more formal the dress code, the less expression you are allowed in determining your attire options; this is particularly true for men.



This is the perfect time to break out that little black dress. Most women will wear a classy short evening dress, though you may also opt for dressy separates.

**Tip:** Ladies should avoid very short dresses and skirts that are shorter than 1 inch above the knee.

## FORMAL / BLACK TIE / BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

**Formal, Black Tie and Black Tie Optional events are among the most fancy of all dress codes, and you will likely be surrounded by a crowd full of tuxedos and floor-length gowns.**

Wear a tuxedo with all the frills (vest/cummerbund, cufflinks, etc). For Black Tie Optional, you may also opt to wear a black suit with white shirt and conservative tie.

**Tip:** A Black Tie dress code does not necessarily limit you to only "black" ties, but you may opt for a black tux.



You are safest wearing a long, floor-length evening dress. A very fancy dress that is not floor-length may also be appropriate.

**Tip:** Wear your hair in an elegant updo or partial updo, and put on fancy jewelry for this occasion.



ties, but you may opt for a solid color  
with any matching tie/cummerbund  
color of your choosing.



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