

NEW DRESS CODE

AT ALTON TOWERS

Language Function: discussing issues; understanding a written text

Vocabulary/Topic: clothes, dress code, swimwear, publicity stunt

advanced
upper-intermediate
intermediate
pre-intermediate



focus on talking

Activity 1. Discuss these questions.

1. What factors do you take into consideration when deciding what to wear?
2. How important is it to you to be appropriately dressed for an occasion? Do you take into consideration what other people will be wearing? Do you mind looking like everyone else? Do you prefer sticking out in the crowd?
3. Have you ever felt awkward because of the clothes you were wearing? Have you ever felt overdressed or underdressed? What happened? How did you feel?
4. Are there any clothes or accessories that you would never wear because they won't flatter you or you would feel uncomfortable in them?
5. Are people in your country traditional or rather liberal as far as their dressing sense is concerned?
6. Look at the list of occasions on the left. What would you advise a foreigner to wear to be appropriately dressed in your country? What would you wear?

WEDDING RECEPTION

JOB INTERVIEW

YOUR FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

CHURCH SERVICE

FOOTBALL MATCH

DAY ON A BEACH

SIGHTSEEING TRIP

BUSINESS LUNCH

EVENING AT THE THEATRE

FIRST DATE

focus on comprehension

Activity 2. Read the text below to find out what two new arrangements is Alton Towers considering and why.

SPEEDO* BAN



Alton Towers may soon revise its dress code in response to a surge in men wearing tight trunks. According to the bosses of the popular holiday attraction in Staffordshire, “the style is not deemed public or family friendly”. The statement released by Alton Towers read that Speedos are “more suited to Spain than Staffordshire”.

The surprise resurgence of the skimpy form of male swimwear is attributed to Cristiano Ronaldo, who is often pictured in tight trunks on the beach. The ban on skimpy Speedos is not the only bad news for him and other male visitors to the theme park; mandatory bikini waxing is also considered “in a bid to prevent unsightly hair form being on display”. While some can perhaps understand the skimpy trunks ban, waxing male body hair is bound to prove controversial. Why aren’t men allowed to look like men anymore?

Some people suspect that the planned ban is another American import - Speedos or ‘European bathing suits’, as they call them, is a big no-no on the other side of the pond. On the other hand, just across the Channel, in France, only Speedo type swimwear is allowed at some public swimming pools.

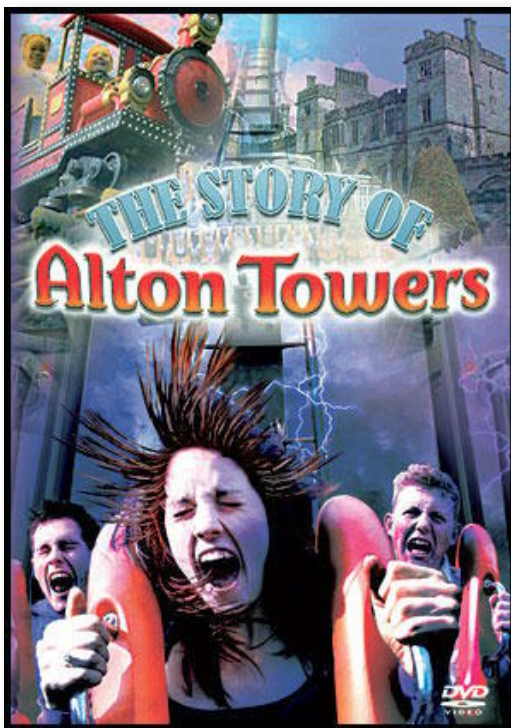
The question remains why the bosses of Alton Towers have become so prudish. Personally, I believe they haven’t, and the whole thing is just a publicity stunt, similar to Ryanair’s plans to start charging passengers for access to the lavatory on flights. It is not likely to happen, but it makes for interesting and very cheap PR. Thanks to it, a lot of people will learn about Alton Towers, and, as a side effect, it might even make Speedos and hairy chests very fashionable.

* **Speedo** - Australian brand of male swim briefs; the popularity of the brand has led to the use of its name to refer to any tight swim briefs worn by men

focus on comprehension

Activity 3. Read the text again and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Alton Towers is considering a ban on tight male swim briefs due to public protests.
2. A similar ban is being introduced in Spain.
3. Cristiano Ronaldo is known for wearing Speedos.
4. According to the author of the text, fewer people would accept mandatory bikini waxing than a ban on wearing skimpy trunks.
5. Speedos are not publicly accepted in the USA and France.
6. According to the author of the text, a ban on tight trunks and mandatory waxing are not seriously considered at Alton Towers.
7. The author believes that the information about the ban was released to generate some free publicity for Speedo brand.



focus on talking

Activity 4. Discuss these questions.

1. What should men wear on a beach in your country? Are tight male trunks accepted at swimming pools and on beaches?
2. How would a ban on Speedos and mandatory bikini waxing be received in your country?
3. Do you agree that Speedo trunks are not suitable for family friendly places?
4. Do you agree with the author of the text that the information about the ban and waxing is just a publicity stunt? Do you think it is fair to generate publicity by spreading false information?

focus on vocabulary

Activity 5. Match the words and expressions from the article with their definitions.

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. to revise something | A. (about clothes) not large enough, showing a lot of your body |
| 2. in response to something | B. something which is thought to be unsuitable or unacceptable |
| 3. a surge | C. a sudden and great increase in something |
| 4. to be deemed | D. trying, attempting to achieve or obtain something |
| 5. resurgence | E. an unusual way of attracting the public's attention |
| 6. skimpy | F. to consider again e.g. an idea, plan, etc. |
| 7. to attribute sth to somebody | G. to think that something is the result of someone's actions |
| 8. mandatory | H. to be considered or judged |
| 9. in a bid to | I. something that must be done because it is required by law |
| 10. unsightly | J. as a reaction to something |
| 11. to be bound to happen | K. to be certain or extremely likely to happen |
| 12. a no-no | L. an increase of activity or interest in a particular subject or idea which had been forgotten for some time |
| 13. on the other side of the pond | M. unattractive, ugly |
| 14. prudish | N. easily shocked by rude things, especially those of sexual type |
| 15. publicity stunt | O. in the United States of America |