



# **The 7 Rules** Of Style for Men

The path to sartorial elegance is fraught with danger. In times gone by men had distinct sets of rules by which to dress, but modern fashions have made it increasingly difficult to chart your way.

At the end of the day your ability to carry off a particular outfit is going to be dependent on your confidence and the situation. Rocking up to white tie event in T-shirts and shorts just isn't gonna cut it regardless of how confident you are in your sartorial style.

## The good news is there are some basic rules that you can follow.

We're going to outline some of them here.

### **Natural fabrics? Always.**

Unless you're off to a 70s retro spandex party leave the synthetic fabrics at home. Natural fibres such as wool, cotton and linen breathe well, drape well and generally look a million better times better.

A wool suit will wear better than anything made of polyester, and won't stink after wearing it for more than a day.

### **Accessorise**

Devil is in the detail so the saying goes, and for good reason. A distinctive but stylish watch is essential. While it would be lovely to have a Rolex or Omega, there are some excellent watch brands out there that add a distinctive touch to your wrist.

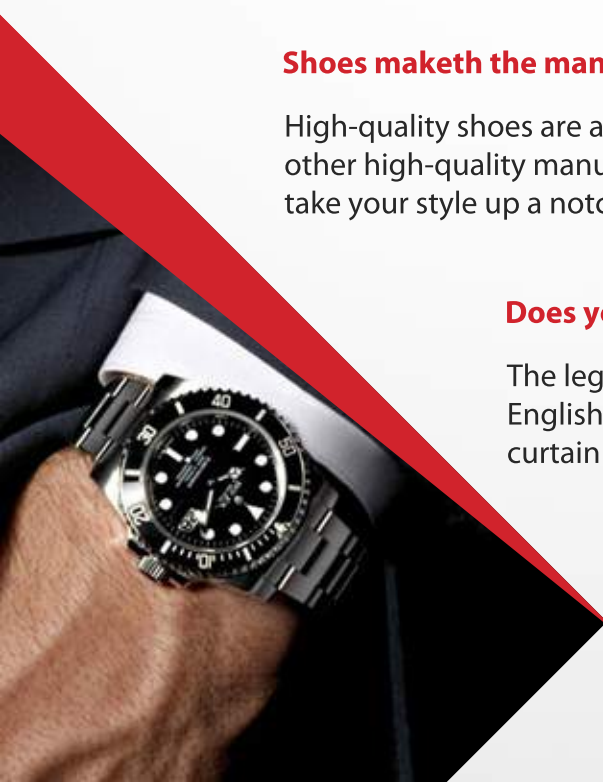
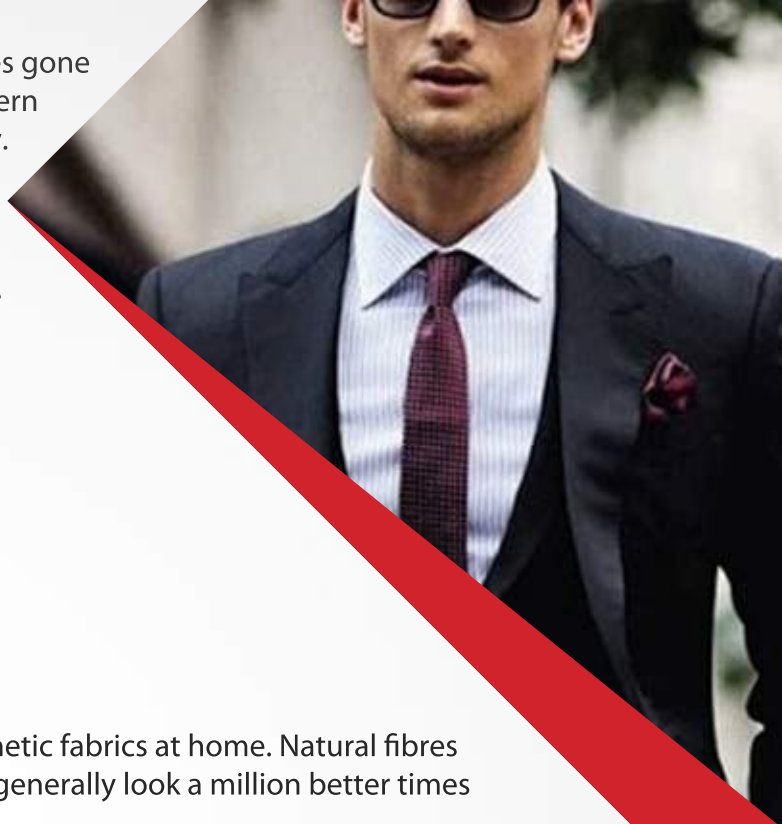
Keep your jewellery to a minimum though. Aristocratic gentlemen traditionally only wear a cygnet ring on the left little finger, foregoing even a wedding ring. While your better half might object strongly to that idea, leave the gawdy the rings and bracelets at home.

### **Shoes maketh the man**

High-quality shoes are an excellent investment. Traditional English brands such as Church's or other high-quality manufacturers cost more in the short-term but last much longer and really take your style up a notch.

### **Does your tie match the curtains?**

The legendary English tailor Sir Hardy Amies remarked in his book, "The Englishman's Suit", that your tie should never look as though it was made from curtain material. So keep your style simple and elegant.



### **Four in hand or the full Windsor?**

The true gentleman would never tie a Four in hand knot in his tie. The only exception to this rule is with super skinny ties. If in doubt go for the full Windsor knot or if space is tight opt for a half Windsor. Not sure how to tie either of those? Google it.

### **Wide collar or button-down?**

Playing polo on the weekend? No I didn't think so. In which case ditch the button-down collar.

An elementary style mistake is men who wear button-down collars with ties to work. The button down collar on a shirt was designed to stop the collar flying up into the gentleman's face during sports. It has no place anywhere else.

There's also often confusion around how wide the cut of your collar should be. Narrow faced men tend to do better with wider collars, however most people can get away with. The wider collar is more traditional however going with fashion in this one is often a good trick. If you're going for a narrower collar, opt for the half Windsor knot in your tie.

### **Double cuffs?**

Double or French cuffs can take your style up a notch or make you look like a ponce. Only you will know if you can pull it off. In the right place with the right accessories and the right style it can work.

