



Illustration: Martin Haake

Shoes and other footwear

Who needs an excuse to go shopping for shoes? VANESSA CLARK presents key language to talk about footwear.

MEDIUM PLUS



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| 1. sandals
[ˈsændəlz] | 7. court shoes
[ˈkɔ:t fu:z] UK,
pumps [pʌmps]
N. Am. |
| 2. wellington boots
[ˌwelɪŋtən ˈbu:ts],
wellies [ˈweliz]
UK,
rubber boots
[ˈrʌbə bu:ts]
N. Am. | 8. slippers [ˈslɪpəz]
9. platform shoes
[ˈplætfɔ:m fu:z]
10. stilettos
[stiˈletəʊz]
11. knee boots
[ˈni: bu:ts]
12. work boots
[ˈwɜ:k bu:ts]
13. high-tops
[ˈhaɪ tɒps]
14. lace-ups
[ˈleɪs ʌps] UK,
oxfords
[ˈɒksfədz] N. Am. |
| 3. flip-flops
[ˈflɪp flɒps] | 15. slip-ons
[ˈslɪp ɒnz],
loafers [ˈləʊfəz] |
| 4. pumps [pʌmps],
ballet flats
[ˈbæleɪ flæts] UK,
ballerinas
[ˌbæləˈri:nəz]
N. Am. | 16. trainers
[ˈtreɪnəz] UK,
sneakers
[ˈsni:kəz] |
| 5. hiking boots
[ˈhaɪkɪŋ bu:ts],
walking boots
[ˈwɔ:kɪŋ bu:ts] | |
| 6. boat shoes
[ˈbəʊt fu:z],
deck shoes
[ˈdek fu:z] | |

Choosing the right shoes

When I get dressed, I start with the shoes and work my way upwards. Do I need **waterproof footwear** with a **closed toe** for the rain, **fur-lined** boots with a **thick sole** for the snow, sandals with **open toes** for the summer sun, **high heels** to look smart or **flat shoes** for **comfort**?

Shoes should fit you in **size** and **width**. Otherwise, they'll **rub** and cause **blisters**. I have wide feet, so I look for **wide-fit** shoes; and for knee boots, I look for a **wide-calf** option. You may have the opposite problem and need **narrow-fit** shoes. If your shoes are **loose**, try an **insole** or **heel grip**. **Tight** shoes will **expand with wear** if they're made of smooth **leather** or **suede**. For people who avoid animal products, **synthetic materials** or **canvas** are good alternatives.

My mother always warned me against shoes with **pointed toes** because they can cause **bunions** like hers, where the **big toe** bends inwards. **Round-toe** shoes allow more space. My mother also warned me against shiny **patent-leather** shoes, but only because boys might see my **underwear** in the reflection!

Neat feet

Whatever shoes you wear, they should be smart and **polished**, of course, not **scuffed** or with **worn-down heels**. Take your old favourites to a **cobbler** or **shoe repair shop** and ask to have them **reheeled** or **resoled**, and pick up some new **laces** and a **tin of polish** while you're there. For suede shoes, invest in a **suede brush** and a **can** of **waterproof spray**.

To **prolong** the life of your shoes, don't wear the same pair every day. Use a **shoehorn** to **put them on**, and remember to **undo** them before **taking them off**.

Pumps

Remember that "pumps" have a different meaning in British and American English. For British women, they're flat shoes. For American women, they have a heel.



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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| blister [ˈblɪstə]
→ Blase | insole [ˈɪnsəʊl]
→ Einlegesohle | scuffed [skʌft]
→ abgewetzt, verkratzt |
| bunion [ˈbʌnjən]
→ Ballenzehe | lace [leɪs]
→ Schnürsenkel | shoehorn [ˈʃu:hɔ:n]
→ Schuhhöffel |
| can [kæn]
→ Dose | otherwise [ˈʌðəwaɪz]
→ andernfalls | suede [sweɪd]
→ Wildleder |
| canvas [ˈkænvəs]
→ Segeltuch | patent leather [ˌpeɪtənt ˈleðə]
→ Lackleder | underwear [ˈʌndəweə]
→ Unterwäsche |
| cobbler [ˈkɒblə]
→ Schuster(in) | pointed [ˈpɔɪntɪd]
→ spitz zulaufend | wide-calf [ˈwaɪd kɑ:f]
→ mit weiter Wade |
| fur-lined [ˈfɜ: laɪnd]
→ pelzgefüttert | prolong [prəʊˈlɒŋ]
→ verlängern | width [wɪðθ]
→ Breite |
| heel grip [ˈhi:l ɡrɪp]
→ Fersenspolster, Fersenhalter | rub [rʌb]
→ scheuern | worn-down [wɔ:n ˈdaʊn]
→ abgelaufen |



How about a vocabulary workout? You won't need trainers to do our exercises in **Spotlight plus**: spotlight-online.de/spotlight-plus

At spotlight-online.de/teachers/picture-it you can find German translations for these words, as well as our Vocabulary archive.

Turn to "Easy English" (page 58) to read a short dialogue with a sales assistant in a shoe shop and to find out more about "lucky" shoes.