

IF YOU'RE ORGANISING YOUR WEDDING INVITE (OR ARE WONDERING WHAT ON EARTH TO WEAR TO SOMEONE ELSE'S) HERE IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD GUIDE TO DRESS CODES - STARTING AT MOST FORMAL DOWN TO MOST CASUAL. NOW REMEMBER, IF YOU'RE BASED IN AUSTRALIA THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT YOUR GUESTS WILL WEAR A CODE THAT'S ABOUT 2 ROWS BELOW. I RECENTLY WENT TO A BLACK TIE WEDDING (DRESSED IN A BLACK-TIE GOWN) ONLY TO REALISE THAT MOST WOMEN WERE WEARING COCKTAIL DRESSES. SO, KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN YOU SELECT A DRESS CODE FOR YOUR OWN WEDDING - OR, MAKE SURE TO ADD \*STRICTLY ... ON YOUR INVITE. :)

### WHITE TIE (I.E. EXTREMELY FORMAL)

THIS IS THE MOST FORMAL CODE AND INDICATES SUITS WITH TAILS, PANTS WITH A SATIN BAND DOWN THE SIDES AND WHITE BOW TIES OR FLOOR LENGTH FORMAL GOWNS (WITH GLOVES). THIS DRESS CODE APPLIES TO HIGHLY FORMAL EVENTS, AND I DARE SAY SHOULD BE ONE THAT'S STRICTLY ADHERED TO.

### BLACK TIE (VERY FORMAL WITH BLACK BOW TIE )

BLACK TIE LITERALLY MEANS BLACK BOW TIE WITH A WHITE TUXEDO SHIRT. (THIS DOESN'T INCLUDE FLORAL SHIRTS, COLOURFUL BOW TIES, TIES ETC.) OR IT MEANS A FLOOR LENGTH GOWN (USUALLY SOMETHING THAT IS QUITE SOPHISTICATED). BLACK TIE IS PROBABLY NOT THE TIME TO WEAR A SUMMERY COCKTAIL OR MINI DRESS.

### BLACK-TIE OPTIONAL ( I.E. FORMAL)

ESSENTIALLY THIS MEANS A BLACK TIE AND TUX SHIRT WOULD BE AMAZING, BUT YOU AREN'T EXPECTED TO GO OUT AND BUY OR RENT SOMETHING FOR THE OCCASION, IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE ONE. WITH DRESSES, AGAIN IT'S A LITTLE MORE RELAXED. DRESSES CAN BE FLOOR LENGTH HOWEVER COCKTAIL DRESSES ARE FINE TOO, IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE SOMETHING SUITABLE..

### FORMAL (I.E.FORMAL)

ESSENTIALLY THIS CODE IS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN BLACK-TIE AND COCKTAIL. IT IS VERY SIMILAR TO BLACK-TIE OPTIONAL WITHOUT NECESSARILY CONFUSING GUESTS BY SAYING BLACK-TIE OPTIONAL :)

### LOUNGE SUIT (I. E. SEMI-FORMAL, BUT SLIGHTLY MORE FORMAL THAN COCKTAIL - TYPICALLY APPLIES TO A DAYTIME WEDDING)

THIS DRESS CODE IS MOSTLY AIMED AT A DAYTIME WEDDING - SO MORE CASUAL THAN A BLACK-TIE OPTIONAL EVENT AND A LITTLE BIT MORE FLEXIBLE IN TERMS OF STYLES OF SUITS AND GOWNS. DAYTIME DRESSES ARE FINE (AND EXPECTED) AS ARE SUITS THAT ARE A LITTLE MORE CASUAL AND COLOURFUL.

### COCKTAIL (I. E. SEMI-FORMAL)

THIS IS ESSENTIALLY A STEP ABOVE SMART CASUAL. IN A STRICT SENSE COCKTAIL MEANS COCKTAIL LENGTH DRESSES ONLY (WITH NOTHING SHORTER OR LONGER). TRADITIONALLY FOR AN EVENING COCKTAIL PARTY DARKER (NAVY OR CHARCOAL) SUITS ARE EXPECTED, WHEREAS A DAYTIME COCKTAIL PARTY IS A LITTLE MORE RELAXED WITH PATTERNS AND COLOURS (MORE SIMILAR TO A LOUNGE SUIT)

### SMART CASUAL (I. E. INFORMAL)

THE MOST RELAXED DRESS CODE, SMART CASUAL ALLOWS FOR SHORT DRESS (I.E. THE LBD), SUMMER/DAYTIME DRESSES OR EVEN BLAZERS, PANTS AND HEELS. ESSENTIALLY IT MEANS NOTHING TOO 'SMART' (FORMAL) AND NOTHING TOO CASUAL. I.E. DARK JEANS AND A BLAZER WOULD BE OK, BUT SNEAKERS ARE NOT.

REMEMBER, PUTTING A DRESS CODE ON YOUR INVITATION IS COMPLETELY OPTIONAL. HOWEVER, IF IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT EVERYONE (OR AT LEAST MOST GUESTS) ADHERE TO THE DRESS CODE, MAKE SURE TO WRITE \*STRICTLY ON YOUR INVITATIONS.