

A Good Fit: Fits and Matches

When we talk about things that go well together—like you and your job, I hope—we use the words 'fit' and 'match.' Sometimes, the words can be used **interchangeably**, but they really have different meanings.

Before You Listen to the Recording

Ask yourself a few questions: do you already know the words? Can you use them in a sentence? If you don't know the words, why do you think that your job is like your clothes? Why would I start talking about job vocabulary by talking about clothes?

Take a moment to think about your job, and about yourself. Do you enjoy your job? Why? Do your friends and family think it's the right job for you? Why? Keep these things in your mind when you listen to the recording. They'll help you use the vocabulary we're going to learn.

Now listen to the recording.

After Your Listen

Was your first idea about the meanings of fit and match—and the difference between the two words—right? Can you give an example now of how your job fits you? Remember: you can write it in the comments and I'll correct it for you!

Now that you have the words, it's important to practice them. These are pretty easy words to practice, however: as you go through the day, think about the different ways things fit or match. Does your mood—the way you're feeling—match the weather? Do your co-worker's clothes fit her personality? How many other things can you find that fit? Or that match?

Vocabulary

Interchangeable: My car has five wheels. It sounds funny, but it does. It has an extra wheel—called a 'spare'—in case there's a problem with one of the 'normal' four wheels. I can use the spare tire in the place of the other tires. The tires are *interchangeable*. The word *interchangeable* means that you can use one or the other and the result is the same. If I drive my car with a normal wheel or with the spare, it drives the same. That's the meaning of *interchangeable*. *Interchangeable* words have the same meanings, in some contexts.

Fit: When I was a boy, my family didn't have the money to always buy me new clothes. So, I often had to wear the clothes that were too small for my big brother. Some of these clothes were too big for me. Others were too small. When clothes are too big or too small, they don't *fit*. *Fit*

is a word meaning 'just the right size.' If your job *fits* you, it has just the right amount of stress, and just the right amount of hard work for you.

Match: Have you ever seen someone wearing one black sock and one white sock? It looks a little silly, doesn't it? Both socks fit, normally. That is, they're the right size for that person's feet, but the socks don't belong together. They don't *match*. Things that *match* belong together, or 'look right' together. My wife often tells me that my clothes don't *match*. I think my job does *match* me, though. I feel like an English teacher, I belong in this job. Another thing that can match are people: my sister is nothing like her husband, but somehow, when you see them together you know that they make a pair: they *match*.