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## Victoria Beckham worst-dressed celeb

URL: [http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0801/080110-victoria\\_beckham.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0801/080110-victoria_beckham.html)

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10<sup>th</sup> January, 2008

## THE ARTICLE

Victoria Beckham's plan to wow Hollywood with her style took a turn for the worse yesterday. Ms Beckham, a.k.a. Posh Spice from the pop band the Spice Girls, was named by the 85-year-old fashion guru Richard Blackwell as 2007's Worst Dressed Celebrity. The acid-tongued critic Mr Blackwell designed dresses for Hollywood's rich and famous in the 1950s and 60s and started compiling his lists of the world's best and worst-dressed stars in 1960. They are now greatly looked forward to, or perhaps not in Ms Beckham's case, by Hollywood's dedicated followers of fashion. Mr Blackwell said Posh wore "one skinny-mini monstrosity after another". His attack on Posh comes exactly a decade after he put the Spice Girls at number one of his list, saying they were "the only spices on the planet that have no taste".

Ms Beckham moved to Los Angeles last year, when her footballer husband David signed up with the LA Galaxy team. She quickly made friends with stars such as Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes and ventured into the fashion industry. Posh launched her own denim and accessories collections in an attempt to become a global brand. She has also appeared on US TV shows and has written a book on style, called "That Extra Half An Inch: Hair, Heels And Everything In Between". The second-worst-dressed woman was another Brit, troubled singer Amy Winehouse. Mr Blackwell said Britney Spears would also have made this year's list but he felt it was "inappropriate...when her personal life is in such upheaval". The best-dressed female celebs included Nicole Kidman and Angelina Jolie.

## WARM-UPS

**1. CLOTHES:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about clothes, fashion and style. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*plans / wow / style / gurus / critics / lists / the 1960s / monstrosities / taste / footballers / making friends / stars / fashion industry / global brands / celebs*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. TO WOW:** What do you think of the verb 'wow'? Talk with your partner(s) about your plans this year (make them up if you need to) to wow these people. What do you think they would say if you carry out your plans?

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| • yourself         | • your English teacher                   |
| • your parents     | • someone you really like at school/work |
| • your partner     | • the world                              |
| • your best friend | • other _____                            |

**4. FASHION PARADE:** Have a quick class fashion parade. Stand in a circle. Discuss with your partners the fashion of other classmates. Change partners often and share what you talked about.

**5. FASHION GURUS:** You are a fashion guru. Talk with your 'fashion guru' partner(s) about what these people would look best wearing at these places:

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • your country's leader | • the beach                      |
| • Queen Elizabeth II    | • at a dinner                    |
| • Britney Spears        | • at the cinema                  |
| • George W Bush         | • in bed                         |
| • Harry Potter          | • at a televised awards ceremony |
| • Nelson Mandela        | • at home on the weekend         |

**6. STYLE:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'style'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**7. QUICK ROLE PLAY:** Student A **strongly** believes people should think carefully about what they wear and take pride in their appearance; Student B **strongly** believes fashion and clothes are a waste of time. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. Victoria Beckham wanted to impress Hollywood with her style. T / F
- b. An up-and-coming fashion critic voted her Worst Dressed Celebrity. T / F
- c. The fashion guru said Ms Beckham looked like a monster. T / F
- d. This is the first time she has received an attack on her fashion. T / F
- e. Victoria followed her husband to LA so he could further his career. T / F
- f. Victoria Beckham and Tom Cruise didn't start a business together. T / F
- g. The runner up for being worst dressed celebrity was also British. T / F
- h. Britney Spears was not on the 2007 Worst Dressed Celebrities list. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. wow            | a. expert        |
| 2. a.k.a.         | b. chaos         |
| 3. guru           | c. joined        |
| 4. acid-tongued   | d. start         |
| 5. exactly        | e. set out       |
| 6. signed up with | f. amaze         |
| 7. ventured       | g. unsuitable    |
| 8. launch         | h. nasty         |
| 9. inappropriate  | i. also known as |
| 10. upheaval      | j. precisely     |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Victoria Beckham's plan to wow         | a. for the worse             |
| 2. took a turn                            | b. was another Brit          |
| 3. The acid-tongued                       | c. of fashion                |
| 4. dedicated followers                    | d. with the LA Galaxy team   |
| 5. Posh wore one skinny-mini monstrosity  | e. into the fashion industry |
| 6. her footballer husband David signed up | f. critic                    |
| 7. ventured                               | g. after another             |
| 8. an attempt to become                   | h. life is in such upheaval  |
| 9. The second-worst-dressed woman         | i. Hollywood with her style  |
| 10. her personal                          | j. a global brand            |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Victoria Beckham's plan to \_\_\_\_\_ Hollywood with her style took a \_\_\_\_\_ for the worse yesterday. Ms Beckham, a.k.a. Posh Spice from the pop band the Spice Girls, was named by the 85-year-old fashion guru Richard Blackwell as 2007's Worst Dressed Celebrity. The \_\_\_\_\_ -tongued critic Mr Blackwell designed dresses for Hollywood's rich and famous in the 1950s and 60s and started \_\_\_\_\_ his lists of the world's best and worst-dressed stars in 1960. They are now greatly looked forward to, or perhaps \_\_\_\_\_ in Ms Beckham's case, by Hollywood's dedicated \_\_\_\_\_ of fashion. Mr Blackwell said Posh wore "one skinny-mini monstrosity after \_\_\_\_\_". His attack on Posh comes exactly a decade after he put the Spice Girls at number one of his list, saying they were "the only spices on the planet that have no \_\_\_\_\_".

Ms Beckham moved to Los Angeles last year, when her footballer husband David \_\_\_\_\_ up with the LA Galaxy team. She quickly made friends with stars such as Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes and \_\_\_\_\_ into the fashion industry. Posh launched her own denim and accessories collections in an \_\_\_\_\_ to become a global brand. She has also appeared on US TV shows and has written a book on \_\_\_\_\_, called "That Extra Half An Inch: Hair, Heels And Everything In Between". The second-worst-dressed woman was \_\_\_\_\_ Brit, troubled singer Amy Winehouse. Mr Blackwell said Britney Spears would \_\_\_\_\_ have made this year's list but he felt it was "inappropriate...when her personal \_\_\_\_\_ is in such upheaval". The best-dressed female celebs \_\_\_\_\_ Nicole Kidman and Angelina Jolie.

*not*  
*turn*  
*compiling*  
*taste*  
*another*  
*wow*  
*followers*  
*acid*

*ventured*  
*signed*  
*life*  
*attempt*  
*also*  
*included*  
*style*  
*another*

**LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.**

Victoria Beckham's plan to wow Hollywood with her style \_\_\_\_\_ worse yesterday. Ms Beckham, a.k.a. Posh Spice from the pop band the Spice Girls, was named by the 85-year-old fashion guru Richard Blackwell as 2007's Worst Dressed Celebrity. The \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Blackwell designed dresses for Hollywood's rich and famous in the 1950s and 60s and started \_\_\_\_\_ of the world's best and worst-dressed stars in 1960. They are now greatly looked forward to, \_\_\_\_\_ Ms Beckham's case, by Hollywood's \_\_\_\_\_ fashion. Mr Blackwell said Posh wore "one skinny-mini \_\_\_\_\_ another". His attack on Posh comes exactly a decade after he put the Spice Girls at number one of his list, saying they were "the \_\_\_\_\_ planet that have no taste".

Ms Beckham moved to Los Angeles last year, when her footballer husband David \_\_\_\_\_ LA Galaxy team. She quickly made friends with stars such as Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes and \_\_\_\_\_ fashion industry. Posh launched her own denim and accessories collections in an \_\_\_\_\_ a global brand. She has also appeared on US TV shows and has written \_\_\_\_\_, called "That Extra Half An Inch: Hair, Heels And Everything In Between". The second-worst-dressed woman was another Brit, \_\_\_\_\_ Amy Winehouse. Mr Blackwell said Britney Spears would also have made this year's list \_\_\_\_\_ "inappropriate...when her personal life is \_\_\_\_\_". The best-dressed female celebs included Nicole Kidman and Angelina Jolie.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'rich' and 'famous'.

<b>rich</b>	<b>famous</b>

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• turn</li><li>• 85-year-old</li><li>• acid</li><li>• not</li><li>• monstrosity</li><li>• planet</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• signed</li><li>• stars</li><li>• global</li><li>• inch</li><li>• personal</li><li>• Nicole Kidman</li></ul>
--	---

## STUDENT CLOTHES SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about clothes in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
  - b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'celebrity'?
  - c) Would you like to visit Hollywood?
  - d) Do you think fashion is important?
  - e) What do you think of Victoria Beckham being named Worst Dressed Celebrity?
  - f) What do you think Victoria Beckham thinks of being named Worst Dressed Celebrity?
  - g) Are you well-dressed or badly-dressed?
  - h) Do you think lists like the ones Richard Blackwell compiled are good?
  - i) When was the last time things took a turn for the worse in your country?
- 

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) What do you think life would be like living in Hollywood and making friends with the stars?
- c) What sort of industry would you like to venture into?
- d) What do you think the title of Victoria Beckham's book means? Would you like to read it?
- e) Who do you think are the world's worst and best-dressed people?
- f) What do you think of what I'm wearing right now?
- g) Can you think of any monstrosities or embarrassing items of clothing you wore when you were younger?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Victoria Beckham?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Victoria Beckham's plan to wow Hollywood with her style took a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for the worse yesterday. Ms Beckham, a.k.a. Posh Spice from the pop band the Spice Girls, was (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by the 85-year-old fashion guru Richard Blackwell as 2007's Worst Dressed Celebrity. The acid-tongued (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Blackwell designed dresses for Hollywood's rich and famous in the 1950s and 60s and started compiling his lists of the world's best and worst-dressed stars in 1960. They are now (4) \_\_\_\_\_ looked forward to, or perhaps not in Ms Beckham's case, by Hollywood's dedicated followers (5) \_\_\_\_\_ fashion. Mr Blackwell said Posh wore "one skinny-mini monstrosity after another". His attack on Posh comes (6) \_\_\_\_\_ a decade after he put the Spice Girls at number one of his list, saying they were "the only spices on the planet that have no taste".

Ms Beckham moved to Los Angeles last year, when her footballer husband David signed (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with the LA Galaxy team. She quickly made friends with stars such as Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes and ventured (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the fashion industry. Posh launched her (9) \_\_\_\_\_ denim and accessories collections in an attempt to become a global brand. She has also appeared on US TV shows and has written a book (10) \_\_\_\_\_ style, called "That Extra Half An Inch: Hair, Heels And Everything In Between". The second-worst-dressed woman was (11) \_\_\_\_\_ Brit, troubled singer Amy Winehouse. Mr Blackwell said Britney Spears would also have made this year's list but he felt it was "inappropriate...when her personal life is in (12) \_\_\_\_\_ upheaval". The best-dressed female celebs included Nicole Kidman and Angelina Jolie.

- |     |               |                |               |              |
|-----|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1.  | (a) turning   | (b) turnaround | (c) U-turn    | (d) turn     |
| 2.  | (a) naming    | (b) nameless   | (c) named     | (d) name     |
| 3.  | (a) critical  | (b) critic     | (c) criticize | (d) critique |
| 4.  | (a) greatly   | (b) greater    | (c) greatness | (d) greatest |
| 5.  | (a) without   | (b) with       | (c) of        | (d) from     |
| 6.  | (a) precision | (b) precise    | (c) exact     | (d) exactly  |
| 7.  | (a) for       | (b) up         | (c) down      | (d) of       |
| 8.  | (a) into      | (b) onto       | (c) unto      | (d) to       |
| 9.  | (a) down      | (b) own        | (c) gown      | (d) town     |
| 10. | (a) from      | (b) at         | (c) on        | (d) in       |
| 11. | (a) another   | (b) other      | (c) the other | (d) also     |
| 12. | (a) many      | (b) so         | (c) most      | (d) such     |

## WRITING:

Write about *style* for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

[illegible]

## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Victoria Beckham. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. STYLE:** What is style? Make a poster about style in different areas (fashion, furniture, food...). Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. CRITIC:** You are a fashion critic. Write a magazine article about style and fashion in your country. Include (imaginary) interviews with a top fashion designer and a good friend of yours.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Victoria Beckham. Ask her three questions about her thoughts on being named Worst Dressed Celebrity. Give her three suggestions on what she should do to wow her critics. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

a. T      b. F      c. F      d. F      e. T      f. F      g. T      h. T

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.      wow            | a.      amaze         |
| 2.      a.k.a.         | b.      also known as |
| 3.      guru           | c.      expert        |
| 4.      acid-tongued   | d.      nasty         |
| 5.      exactly        | e.      precisely     |
| 6.      signed up with | f.      joined        |
| 7.      ventured       | g.      set out       |
| 8.      launch         | h.      start         |
| 9.      inappropriate  | i.      unsuitable    |
| 10.    upheaval        | j.      chaos         |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1.      Victoria Beckham's plan to wow         | a.      Hollywood with her style  |
| 2.      took a turn                            | b.      for the worse             |
| 3.      The acid-tongued                       | c.      critic                    |
| 4.      dedicated followers                    | d.      of fashion                |
| 5.      Posh wore one skinny-mini monstrosity  | e.      after another             |
| 6.      her footballer husband David signed up | f.      with the LA Galaxy team   |
| 7.      ventured                               | g.      into the fashion industry |
| 8.      an attempt to become                   | h.      a global brand            |
| 9.      The second-worst-dressed woman         | i.      was another Brit          |
| 10.    her personal                            | j.      life is in such upheaval  |

### GAP FILL:

#### Victoria Beckham worst-dressed celeb

Victoria Beckham's plan to **wow** Hollywood with her style took a **turn** for the worse yesterday. Ms Beckham, a.k.a. Posh Spice from the pop band the Spice Girls, was named by the 85-year-old fashion guru Richard Blackwell as 2007's Worst Dressed Celebrity. The **acid**-tongued critic Mr Blackwell designed dresses for Hollywood's rich and famous in the 1950s and 60s and started **compiling** his lists of the world's best and worst-dressed stars in 1960. They are now greatly looked forward to, or perhaps **not** in Ms Beckham's case, by Hollywood's dedicated **followers** of fashion. Mr Blackwell said Posh wore "one skinny-mini monstrosity after **another**". His attack on Posh comes exactly a decade after he put the Spice Girls at number one of his list, saying they were "the only spices on the planet that have no **taste**".

Ms Beckham moved to Los Angeles last year, when her footballer husband David **signed** up with the LA Galaxy team. She quickly made friends with stars such as Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes and **ventured** into the fashion industry. Posh launched her own denim and accessories collections in an **attempt** to become a global brand. She has also appeared on US TV shows and has written a book on **style**, called "That Extra Half An Inch: Hair, Heels And Everything In Between". The second-worst-dressed woman was **another** Brit, troubled singer Amy Winehouse. Mr Blackwell said Britney Spears would **also** have made this year's list but he felt it was "inappropriate...when her personal **life** is in such upheaval". The best-dressed female celebs **included** Nicole Kidman and Angelina Jolie.

### LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d    2 - c    3 - b    4 - a    5 - c    6 - d    7 - b    8 - a    9 - b    10 - c    11 - a    12 - d