

6-6 Skirts and pants can be almost any length, depending on fashion and personal preference. Which lengths are currently fashionable?

World War II, knee length returned. In the 1960s, a variety of fashion lengths were introduced—mini, midi (midcalf), and maxi. Since then, many different lengths continue to be popular at the same time.

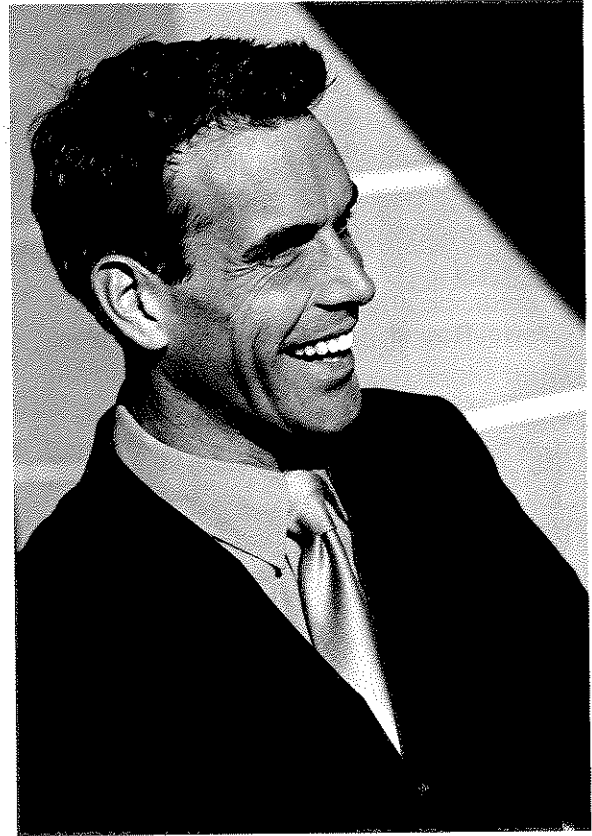
Like skirts, pant lengths have been through fashion swings. See *Fig. 6-6*. Even when fashion brings back a particular length, the name for the style may be different. For example, in the 1990s, the cropped pants of earlier times came back into fashion. Over the years, these pants, which fall between the knee and ankle, have been called clam diggers, Capri pants, toreador pants, and pedal pushers. The name could be something else the next time around. See *Fig. 6-7*.

Fashion details in trousers and pants also swing back and forth. Trouser tops are sometimes tight across the hips. At other times they have pleats for added fullness. The width of pant legs can change from wide to medium to narrow, and then back again. Sometimes trouser legs have cuffs and sometimes they're plain.

Men's neckties are another good example of fashion swings. In the 1940s, very wide ties balanced the wide lapels on double-breasted suits. When Ivy League suits were stylish in the 1960s, ties became very skinny, and diagonal stripes were popular. As suits with wider lapels came back again in the mid-1970s, ties got wider too. See *Fig. 6-8*. In the 1980s, they narrowed to a medium width, with stripes, tiny prints, and dark

colors. Later, in the early 1990s, wider ties returned, with more color. Fabrics featured flowers, cartoon characters, and other bold designs. By the late 1990s, solid-color ties, often the same color as the shirt, were worn. These changes usually happen gradually, although a new “look” may suddenly become popular.

6-7 Pants that fall between the knee and ankle have been in and out of fashion over the years. What else have cropped pants been called?



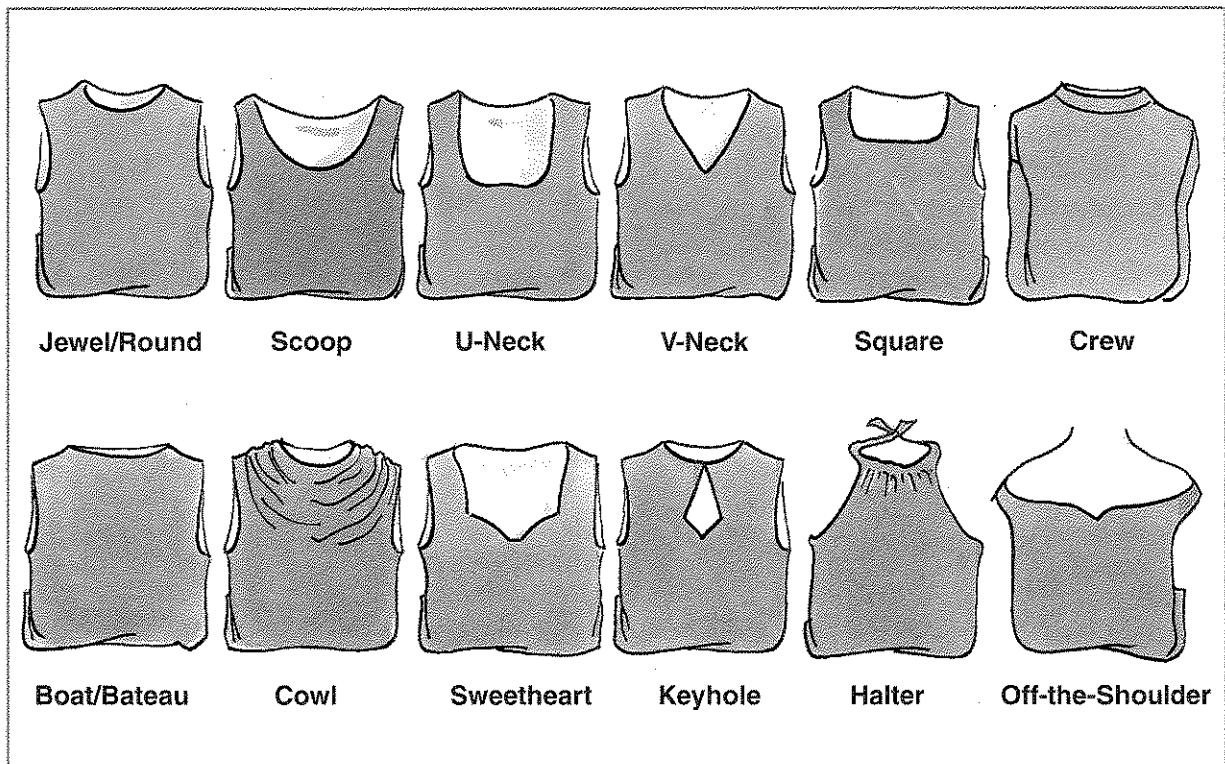
6-8 Fashions change for many reasons. Designers want to create something new, manufacturers want to sell something new, and people want to wear something new. Why do you think the cycle of change is faster today than it used to be?

FASHION FEATURES

Not every fashion detail is used by designers every season. A certain type of collar may appear on many garments one year; the next year another style is popular. Garment features—necklines, collars, and sleeves—can be combined to create many different looks. Some combinations, however, are more pleasing and practical than others.

Neckline Styles

The neckline is the area around the neck and shoulders. Before the twentieth century, garments



6-9 Neckline Styles

from the same period all had similar necklines. Today many different types appear in a season. You're likely to see those described here and in Fig. 6-9.

- **Jewel.** This high, rounded neckline is so named because it provides a good background for a necklace or pin.
- **Crew.** Also high and round, the crew neckline is finished with a knit band. This style was originally on sweaters worn by rowing crews.
- **Cowl.** The **cowl** is a softly draped neckline on a dress or blouse. Because it's cut on the bias, which is the diagonal grain of the fabric, soft folds form. *Cowl*, which means softly draped, was originally the term for a hooded robe worn by monks.
- **Bateau.** This neckline resembles the outline of a long, low boat resting on the water. *Bateau* is the French word for boat.

- **Sweetheart.** This neckline is moderately low in front and forms a point, similar to a heart shape.
- **Halter.** With this neckline, a drawstring or band holds a sleeveless garment front in place at the neck. The shoulders and back are bare.

Collar Styles

A collar is a separate piece of fabric attached to the neckline. It can be small or large, soft or stiff, stand up or fold over. Although most collars are sewn onto the garment, some are detachable. Removable collars change a garment's look and can be cleaned separately. They can be held in place with buttons, snaps, hook-and-loop fasteners, or basting stitches. ■ [SEE → p 556](#)

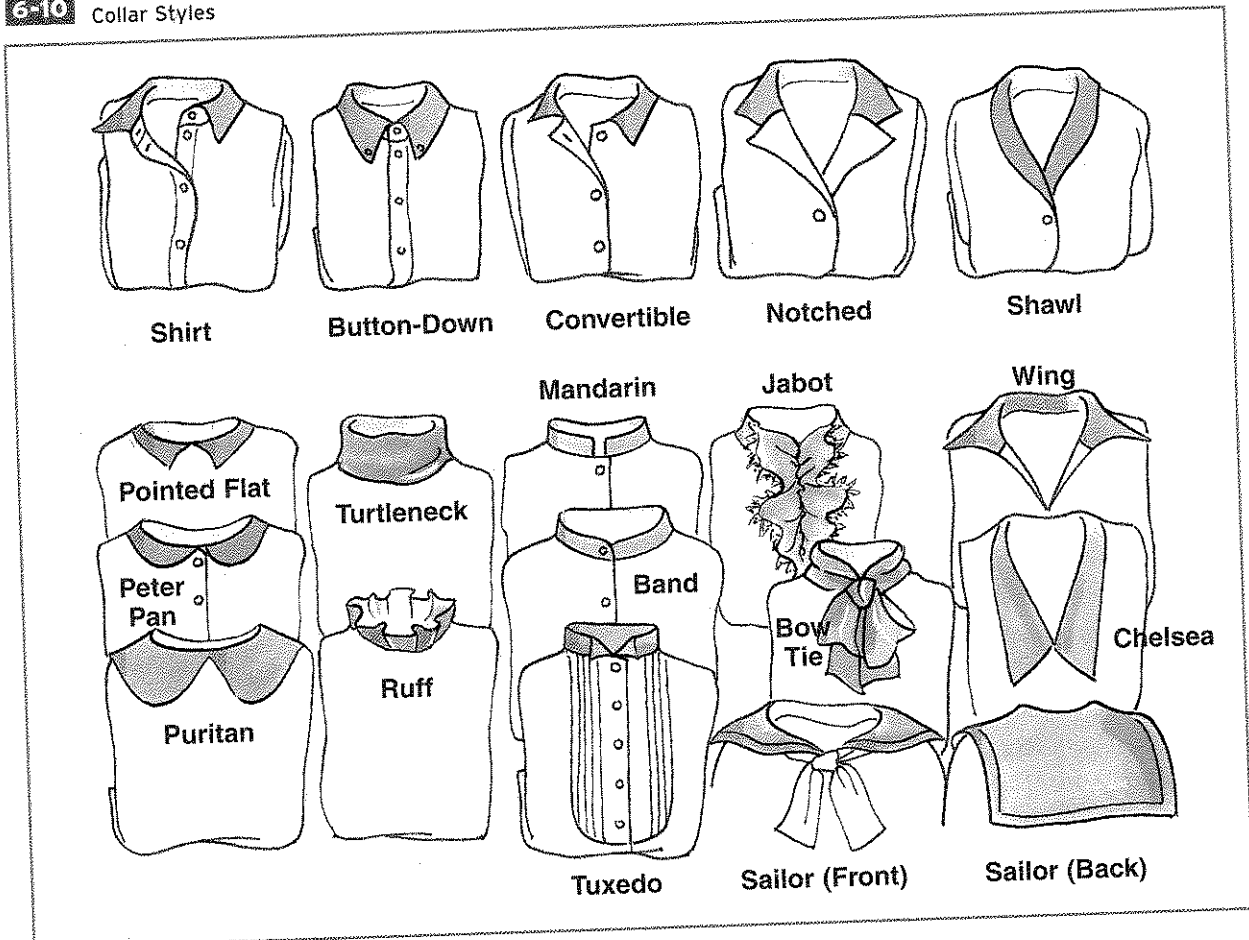
Classic collar styles include the shirt, button-down, convertible, notched, and shawl collar. See Fig. 6-10. Some collars are joined to a lapel, the front part of a shirt or jacket that is folded back

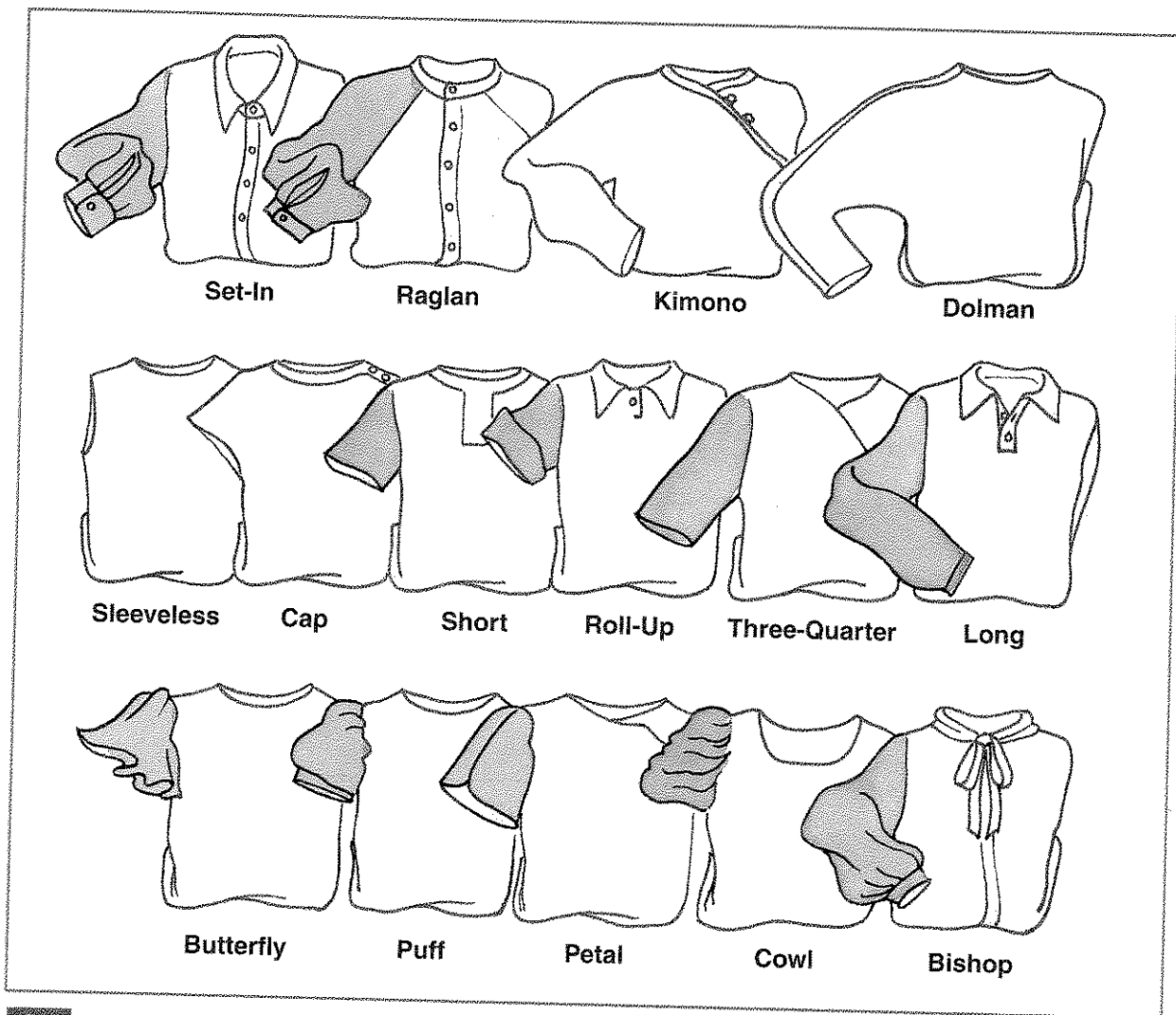
on the chest. The notched collar forms a point where the collar and lapel meet. In contrast, the shawl collar joins the lapel in a continuous line. Some curiously named collars are explained below.

- **Peter Pan.** The Peter Pan collar is small and flat, with rounded corners. The name is taken from the play *Peter Pan*, written in 1904 by James M. Barrie. The costumes in the play had this collar style.
- **Sailor, or middy.** This collar was copied from those on a sailor's uniform. A middy, or midshipman, is a student at a naval academy.
- **Mandarin.** The stand-up style of a mandarin collar is seen in the traditional dress worn in China. The term *mandarin* is the name of the dialect spoken in many parts of China, including Beijing.

- **Tuxedo.** This collar has turned-down points and is usually worn with a bow tie and tuxedo jacket, named after Tuxedo Park, NY.
- **Chelsea.** The Chelsea collar first became popular in the Chelsea section of London.
- **Puritan.** Named for the Puritans of the sixteenth century, this collar imitates the style they wore.
- **Ruff.** A small, stand-up ruffle identifies the ruff collar. It's less frilly than the stiff white ruffs worn by men and women at the turn of the seventeenth century.
- **Jabot.** This is a small, standing collar with a lacy, ruffled, or pleated trimming attached at the front. The trimming is called a jabot (zha-BOH).

6-10 Collar Styles





6-11 Sleeve Styles

Sleeve Styles

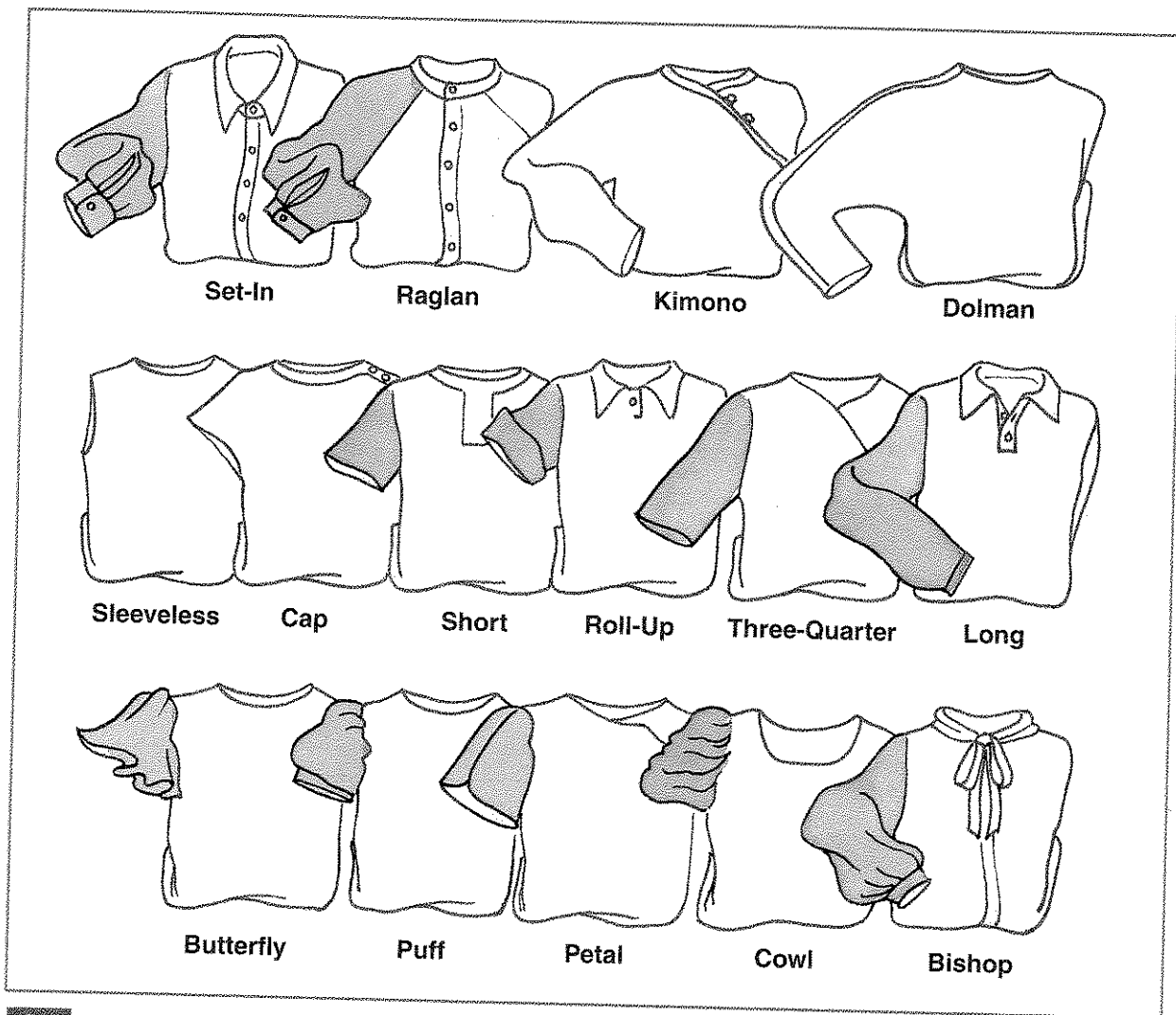
The sleeve has come a long way from its beginning as an overhang of material draped about the shoulders. Sleeves today range from a tiny cap to a full, flounced attachment. See *Fig. 6-11*. There are three basic sleeve styles. **see→ p 539**

- **Set-in.** The **set-in sleeve** is joined to the garment by an armhole seam that circles the arm near the shoulder.
- **Raglan.** A front and back diagonal seam that extends from the neckline to the underarm identifies the **raglan sleeve**.

- **Kimono.** A **kimono sleeve** is cut in one piece that includes the garment front and back. It is then sewn together along the outer arm and the underarm.

All other sleeves are variations of the three basic styles. Some interesting types include the following:

- **Dolman.** A variation of the kimono sleeve, this type is narrow at the wrist and wide at the underarm.
- **Puff, or baby doll.** As a type of set-in sleeve, this style is popular for babies' and children's clothes.



6-11 Sleeve Styles

Sleeve Styles

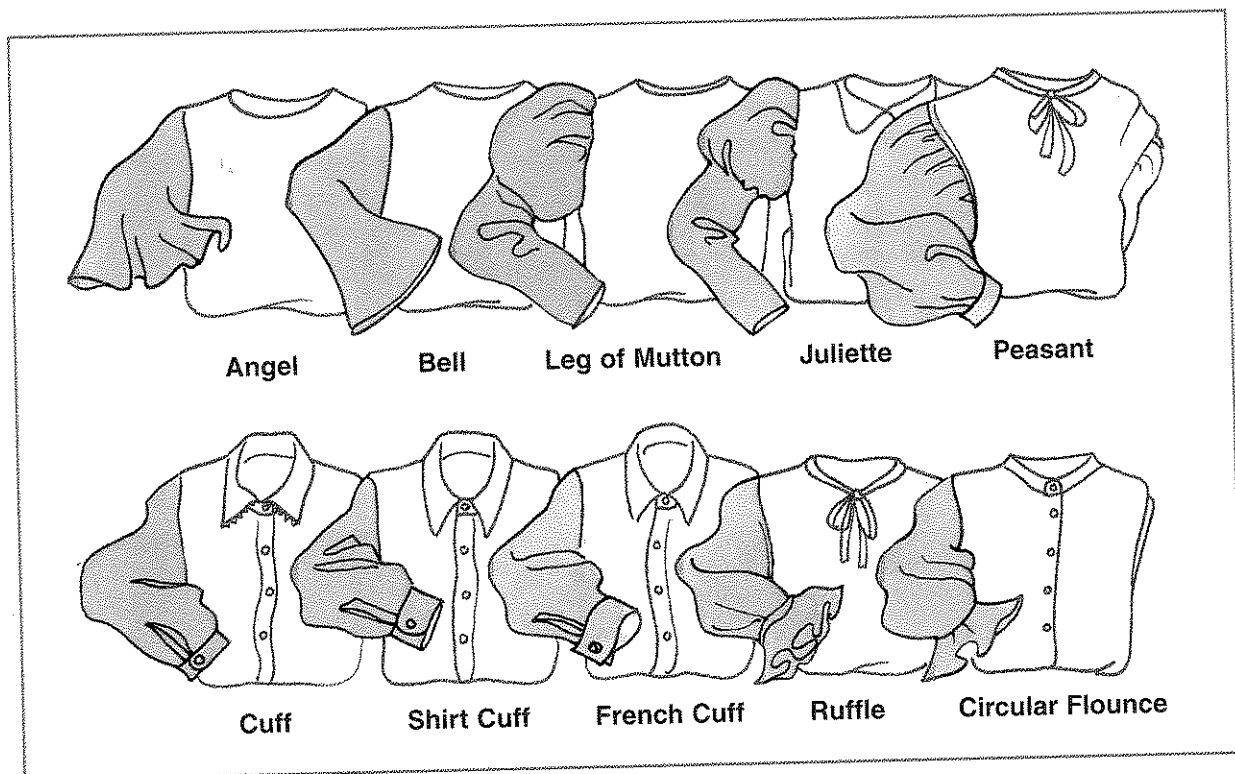
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6-11 Sleeve Styles (Continued)

- **Leg of mutton.** This set-in sleeve was very fashionable in the Victorian era. The name comes from its resemblance to a cooked leg of lamb.

GARMENT STYLES

Imagine a teen putting on her robe to go out for a special dinner. Long ago a female might have done just that, because what people call a dress today was once called a robe. History shows that many garments have changed in name as well as style over the years.

From medieval times until the eighteenth century, most dresses were actually separate skirts and bodices. Persian and Anglo-Saxon men have worn pants since ancient times. The term *pants* wasn't used, however, until the late 1800s, when it meant outer garments worn by men and boys. The word *coat* comes from the English word *cloak*. This large piece of fabric was wrapped around the body over other clothing for warmth.

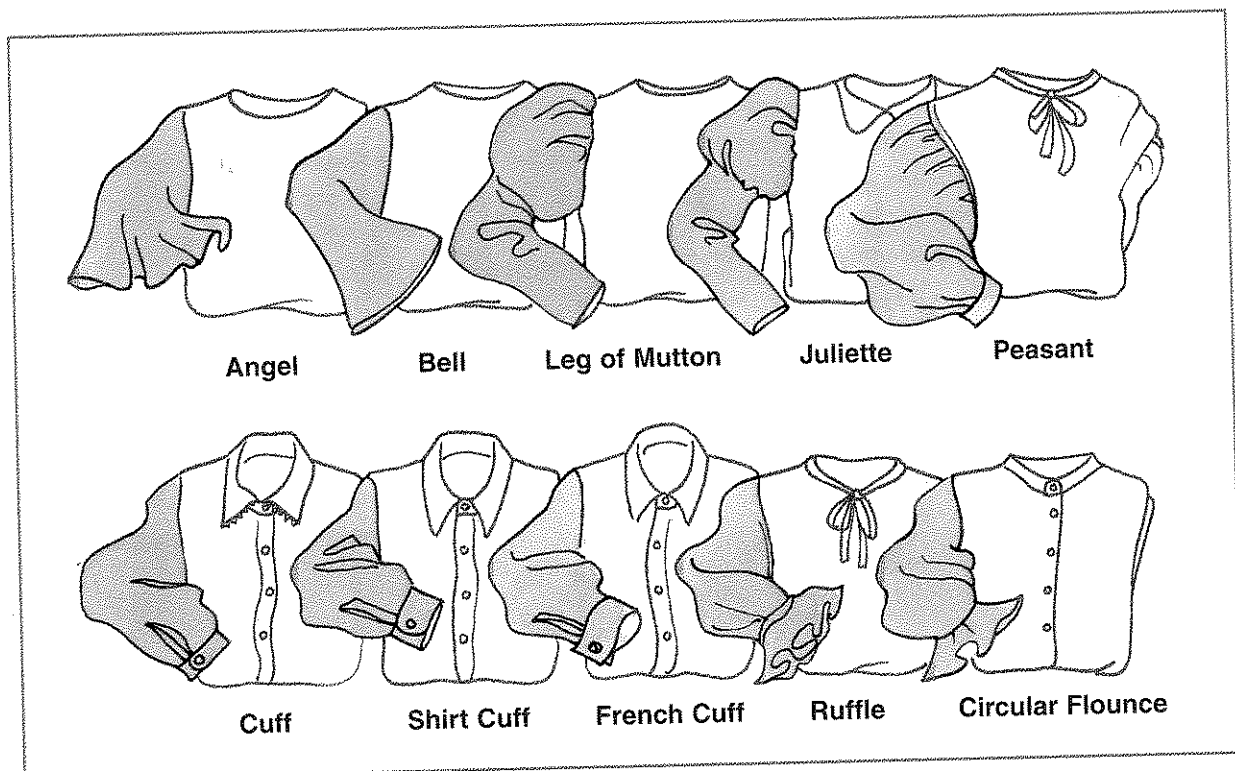
Jacket is a modern form of the Old French *jaquette*, or "little coat." Today a jacket is typically an outer layer of clothing of more or less hip length. It may also be worn under a coat.

Some garment styles today are described by names that link to the past. Other connections are made to the garment's shape. Once learned, the names give you a way to distinguish one garment from another.

Dress Styles

Dress styles can be divided into those that have a waistline or horizontal seam and those that lack one. See Fig. 6-12 on page 108. Classic styles without waistlines are described here.

- **Sheath.** This dress is close fitting and shaped by darts.
- **Shift, or chemise.** A loose-fitting dress, this one became popular in the 1920s.



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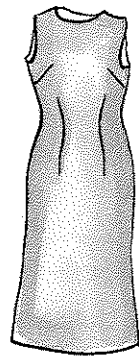
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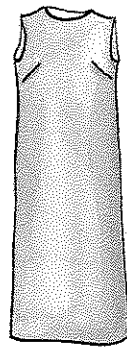
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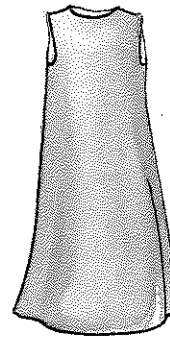
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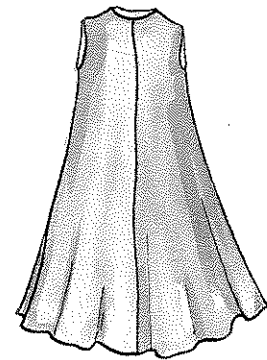
Sheath



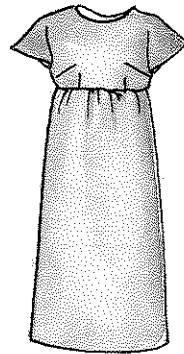
Shift or
Chemise



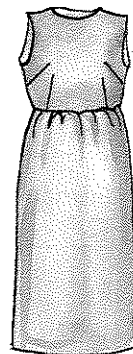
A-line



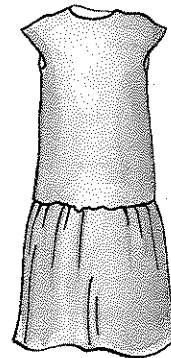
Tent



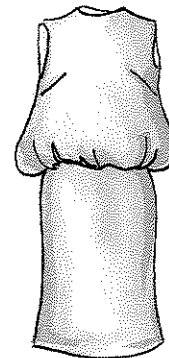
Empire



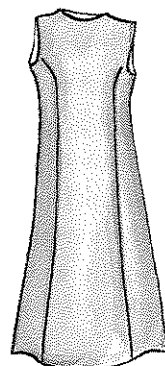
High Waist



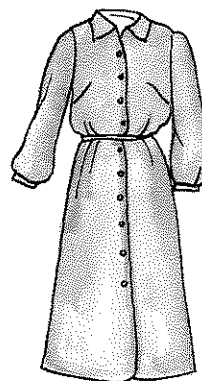
Dropped Waist



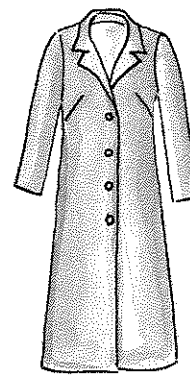
Blouson



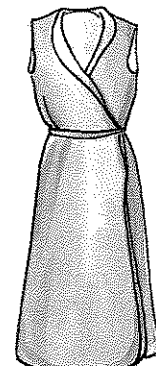
Princess



Shirtwaist



Coatdress



Asymmetrical
Closing

- **A-line.** Due to the shape that flares out to the hemline, this dress is called an A-line. It was introduced by Christian Dior in 1955.
- **Princess.** The vertical seams give the close-fitting, flared princess dress its shape.

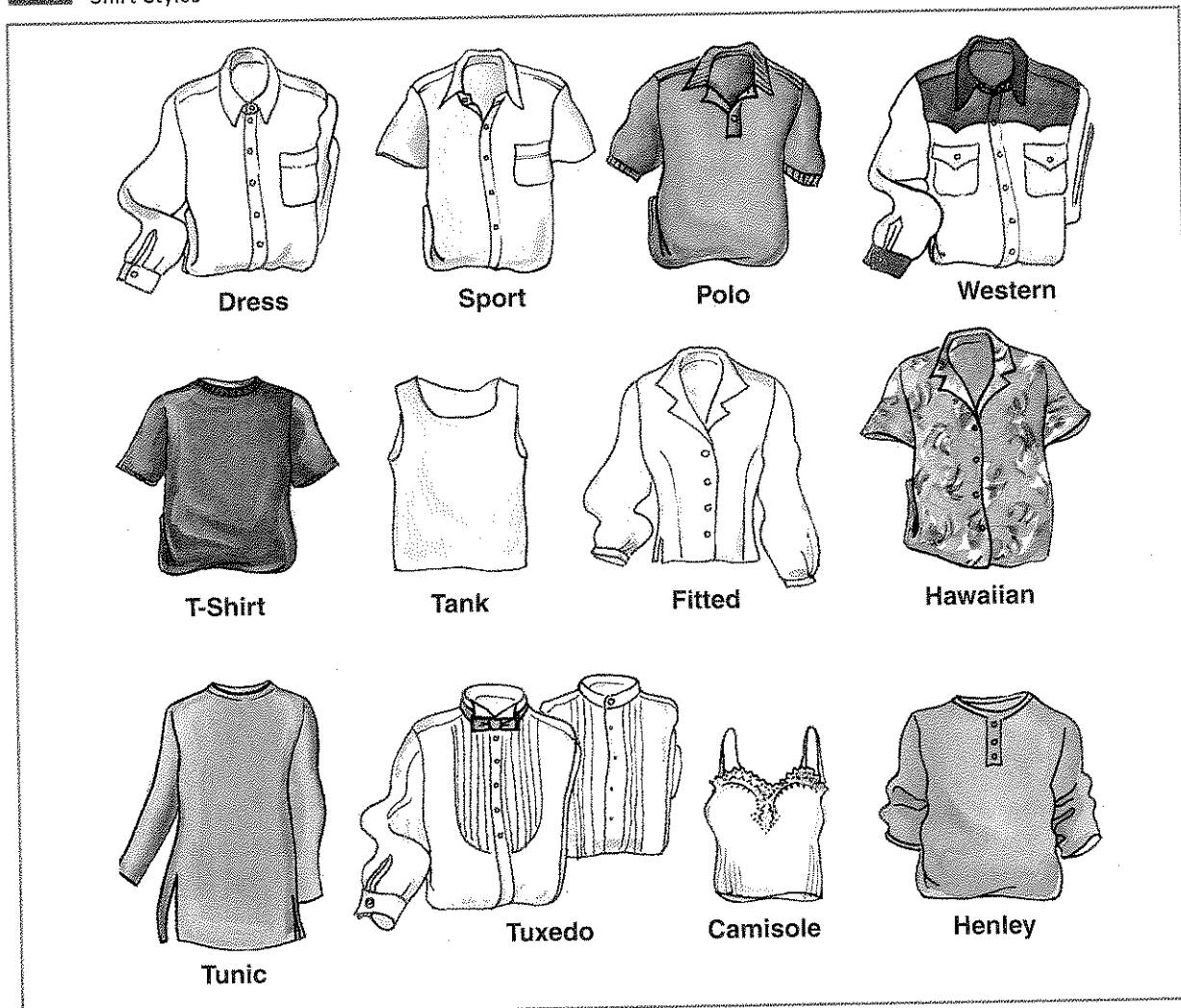
Other dress styles have a bodice and skirt joined at, above, or below the natural waistline. These styles include the empire, high-waist, dropped waist, blouson, and shirtwaist. A two-piece dress consists of a separate, matching skirt and top.

Shirt Styles

The term *shirt* usually refers to a top that is more tailored than a blouse. Many styles are made to fit both women and men. Some popular shirt and blouse styles are described below and shown in Fig. 6-13.

- **Dress.** The dress shirt is a traditional man's shirt that is worn with a suit and necktie.
- **Sport.** Sport shirts are more casual and usually worn without a tie.
- **Polo.** This knit shirt is similar to those worn by polo players in the 1920s.
- **Hawaiian, or aloha.** This sport shirt is made of floral fabric in tropical colors.
- **Henley.** Crew teams that competed in the Henley rowing regatta in England wore collarless shirts that inspired the name of this style.
- **Tuxedo.** Tuxedo shirts have a pleated front and a small wing or banded collar.
- **Tank top.** This shirt resembles a man's undershirt. The name comes from the bathing suit that was worn in the first indoor pools, which were originally called tanks.
- **Tunic.** Inspired by the ancient Roman garment, the tunic is a loose-fitting top that is hip length or longer.

6-13 Shirt Styles





Skirt Styles

A skirt is a separate piece of clothing that can be worn with any top. See Fig. 6-14. Skirts can be straight, flared, or full. Darts, seams, pleats, and gathers create the shapes. Straight skirts often have a slit or pleat in the back seam to allow for movement. Variations of basic skirt shapes include the following:

- **Dirndl.** This straight skirt has extra fullness gathered at the waistline.
- **Gored.** Shaped sections called gores form this skirt. It fits at the waistline and flares at the hem. Four-gore and six-gore skirts are most common, but a twenty-four-gore skirt is possible.

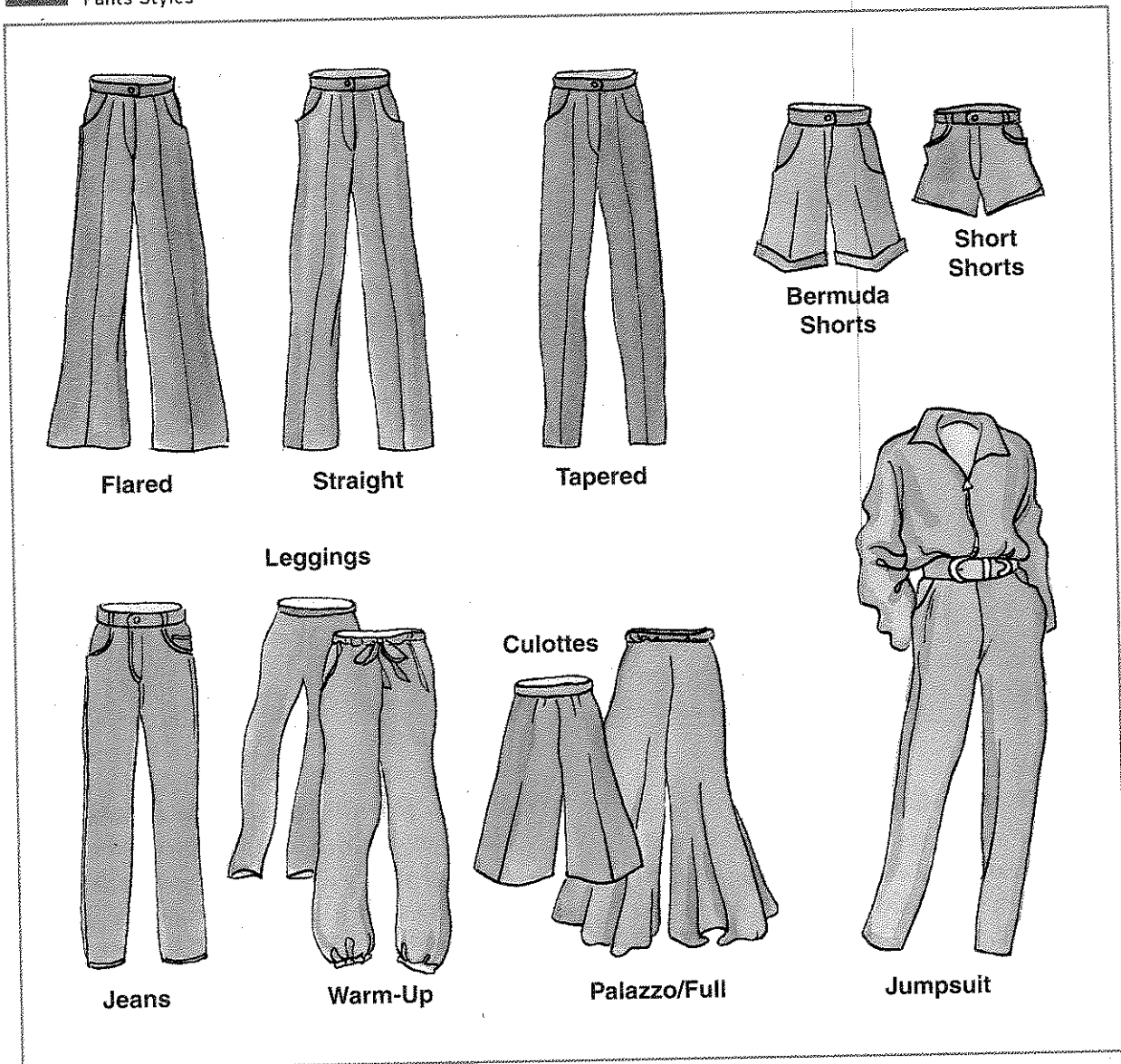
- **Wrap.** This skirt wraps around the body and fastens with buttons or ties. A kilt, the traditional attire for men in Scotland, is a pleated wrap skirt.

Pants Styles

Pants styles vary in length as well as width. See Fig. 6-15. They can be short or long, full or fitted. Fashion dictates which are most popular and how they are worn. The waistline usually falls at the natural waistline but can be higher or lower. Pants that begin at the hip, rather than the waist, are called hip huggers. The following are common pants styles:

- **Straight.** Straight pants are the same width from knee to hem.
- **Tapered.** Tapered pants are narrower at the hem than at the knee.
- **Flared.** Flared pants are wider at the hem than at the knee. Bell-bottoms form a wide flare from the knee down.
- **Bermuda shorts.** Named for the island of Bermuda, these above-the-knee pants are worn there as men's streetwear.
- **Culottes.** These pants are cut to resemble a skirt.
- **Palazzo.** Also called pajama pants, these flowing pants are long, wide culottes.
- **Leggings.** Leggings are close-fitting, knitted pants.
- **Warm-ups.** These knit pants have an elastic or drawstring waist and ribbing or elastic at the ankles.
- **Jumpsuit.** The jumpsuit is a one-piece garment that combines pants with a bodice.

6-15 Pants Styles





6-16 Jacket and Coat Styles

Jacket and Coat Styles

Jackets and coats can be either single- or double-breasted. A single-breasted garment has one row of buttons down the center-front opening. A double-breasted garment has a wider front overlap and two rows of buttons. Among the styles you'll see are those described here and illustrated in Fig. 6-16.

- **Blazer.** This classic, solid-color jacket may be single- or double-breasted. When first worn in England in the 1890s, it was single-breasted and deep red or red-and-white striped.
- **Cardigan.** A collarless jacket or sweater, this garment buttons down the front. It's named for the 7th Earl of Cardigan, who added its extra layer of warmth to his military uniform in 1854.