

japantoday

Monday, July 22, 2002

Japan Today's Takanori Kobayashi dropped into Shinjuku to ask:

Should companies allow employees to wear casual clothes at work?

Wearing a tie, business shirt, suit and leather shoes is traditional dress style for Japanese businessmen, but casual wear such as T-shirts, jeans and sporty shoes are not allowed by many corporations yet, despite attempts by some companies to introduce a Casual Friday.



"For Japanese businessmen, suits are inevitable because they cannot attend meetings with clients dressed casually. Personally, I'd like to have the freedom of choice to wear what I'd like. Wearing something different each day would be enjoyable."

- Satoshi Hayashida, 32



"The company where I work now allows staff to dress casually. It's more comfortable for me and has never caused any trouble with clients. I cannot see any necessity for employees to wear suits."

- Tomoyuki Ogata, 25



"It depends on the type of job. If receptionists wear casual clothes, visitors may be unfavorably impressed. But I really feel sorry for businessmen having to wear suits in this hot weather."

- Ayako Usui, 22



"Yes, they should, especially in summer. Some older employees might be unsure what to wear because they don't have many casual clothes. In that case, they should consult their wives about it."

- Yukio Kuwabe, 50



"If the boss says OK, then fine. But it really depends on what business you're in. For example, employees of funeral service firms shouldn't wear jeans since it would make mourners mad. Anyway, I think wearing suits makes businessmen look professional and competent, even though they are really idiots."

- Hideki Matsumoto, 27

"Today, I'm wearing a suit because I have a meeting with my clients, but actually my company gives us the freedom to wear what we like. I prefer casual clothes since suits make me look too somber."



- Hiroyuki Tokunaga, 20



"Some companies are beginning to allow employees to wear casual clothes. However, considering that many companies tend not to accept casual clothes, the tradition of wearing suits won't disappear for the time being."

- Yoshitsugu Takeda, 33



"Employees who mainly work in-house should be able to wear casual clothes, I think. However, sales personnel should wear suits because their clients will have a negative impression otherwise."

- Masashi Murakami, 30

<http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=popvox&id=271>

Copying or using text, photographs, illustrations, video or images appearing on this site without permission is prohibited.
All rights reserved. Copyright © 2000, 2001