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maximise your summer style

Image Consultant and Make-up Artist
Kate Evans answers your monthly fashion questions...

Dear Kate,
I need a new pair of sunglasses but feel a bit overwhelmed by the choice of styles of the high street, so don't really know where to start. Are there any rules or tips you can give me to point me in the right direction? I have dark brown hair and an oval face shape.
Clare, Cheltenham

Hi Clare,
I am not surprised that you feel overwhelmed as there is such a variety of styles out there and some of them are pretty pricy- so you want to make sure you are buying a style that will suit you and last at least a few years.

It is hard to advise you without knowing more about your style personality and colouring... but generally you need to wear frame and lens colours that will work for your colouring. Because you have dark colouring, I would advise that you go for black, dark brown, dark green or purple frames with a dark lens. Your oval face shape will enable you to have much more choice of styles as it is balanced with no major shape imbalance. The style of frame you choose will depend on your style personality - are you a creative person who likes to dress with no rules, or are you more classic and practical? Think about whether you want your sunglasses to make a statement or whether you just want to look sophisticated? If you have children or work outside, is it practical to buy a designer pair that might get damaged? Alternatively, maybe you are an investment buyer and

want this pair to last you a few years and don't mind spending a bit more to get something a bit more special? The choice is obviously up to you.

Most shops have their own range of sunglasses, but I particularly like Accessorize's designs, starting at £12. Marks and Spencers can always be relied upon to have a great range as well as Jigsaw. Just make sure that the lenses offer 100 per cent UV protection to keep your eyes safe.

Dear Kate,
I really like the idea of buying a maxi dresses for the summer as they look so comfy. I am 5ft 6"- am I tall enough to be able to get away with it?
Emma, Tewkesbury

Hi Emma,
You are right to consider your height when buying a maxi dress as they can be a challenge for petites. If you are on the small side, stick to one colour and small patterns so that you are not dwarfed. Alternatively if you do want one with more colour and pattern, wear it with a pair of wedges for elevation. The taller you are the more you can experiment with blocks of colour and pattern as your frame will balance the eye catching designs. You can wear the maxi dress simply with flip flops/sandals in the day or heels and accessories for an evening look. Try belting to add variation or layering over vest tops or T-shirts on chillier days. You could always add a shrug, shawl or cardigan if you don't want to show your arms. **CS**



WITH KATE EVANS

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