



THE ANATOMY OF A GREAT SUIT

Lapel
The width of the lapel and the position of the notch are the most prominent indicators of the year the suit was bought, so ensure that these two details are not aggressively slim or positioned too high up.

Shoulder
The seam on the shoulder of your suit should line up exactly with the end of your shoulders, this is the measurement that should dictate the size jacket you buy, it is also the only area you should never have altered.

Torso
The body of your jacket should fit close to your torso. If it creates a "boxy" look, ask your tailor to "shape" the body.

Chest
There should be no folds of cloth (too big), nor ripples (too small), the space here should not exceed the width of an average fist.

Top button
With the top button closed, the jacket should fit close to the body but should not strain.

Bottom button
It is always undone.

Bottom of jacket
Historically a tailor would have you drop your arms to your sides, cup your hands and check that the bottom of the jacket sat right in that "cup." Jackets are being cut shorter these days and should fall somewhere right below your derriere.

Base of your sleeve
Tell your tailor you want 1/2" of your shirt's cuff to be visible.

Tops of pants
Pants should sit on the hips, not hang over them.

Bottom of pants
Slim cut trousers are worn shorter — approximately 1/4" below the top back of the shoe; More generally the back part of the pant leg should end between the middle of the heel counter and the beginning of the shoe's sole. Tell your tailor you want "little to no break."

Legs
Pant legs should fit close to your own leg but not be tight nor voluminous. Also avoid aggressive tapering.

SOURCE: Jessica Cadmus/Wardrobe Whisperer

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