

Dress for Real Life

If you want to.... **Flatter a big bust**

- Choose a simple sheath to show off an ample chest without revealing too much.
- Try dresses with darts that allow extra room in the bust.
- When you are going sleeveless, conceal your bra by selecting a style that has wide straps.
- Stay away from V-necks, which emphasize your chest.



If you want to....**Slim down hips**

- Draw attention upward with a plunging V-neckline that plays up décolletage.
- Look for a graphic print that's larger on top. It creates the illusion that your lower half is smaller.
- Elongate your frame with a vertical element, like ruffles or seams.
- Try a slight A-line cut, which sculpts a waist but minimizes hips.
- Steer clear of drop-waist styles, which bring the focus to hips.



If you want to....**Hide a tummy**

- Look for a constructed waistline, subtle draping or both. They can disguise an apple shape.
- Try a bold print to help downplay figure flaws.
- Shop for a classic shirtdress, which obscures a belly bulge with vertical buttons and a tie belt.
- Stay away from stretchy fabrics that pull across the midsection.



If you want to....**Balance a pear shape**

- Go for a slight A-line style that's loose around the hips but not too billowy. An Empire waistline can be flattering, too.
- Try a style with full sleeves or contrasting trim. Both help to offset a heavier bottom.
- Avoid tight cuts and clingy fabrics—which accentuate bulges.



If you want to....**Show off curves**

- Pick a dress that's semi-fitted—the cut flatters a curvaceous torso.
- Try a crossover or sweetheart neckline to tastefully emphasize an ample bust.
- Define your middle with a contrasting-color waistband.
- Don't hide behind oversize tunics—these shapeless styles make you look bigger.



If you want to....**Accommodate long legs**

- Experiment with longer hemlines to downplay legs.
- Soften a boyish figure with a billowy skirt or a diagonal ruffle.
- Go bold with large-scale prints. You can get away with it if you're tall.
- Look for dresses cut on the bias—they create movement and break up the vertical line.
- Avoid minis and pencil skirts, which accentuate your height.

