London Fashion Week highlights spring trends

LEVEL B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. Which fashion weeks or designers do you follow, if any?
2. What colour do you like to wear in spring, and why?
3. Have you ever tried a new look because of a trend?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

runway
the long platform where models walk to show clothes

debut
a first public appearance of a person or collection

tailoring
the cut and shape of clothing, especially suits and coats

aesthetic
a style or look that shows a certain idea of beauty

silhouette
the basic shape or outline of a piece of clothing

drape
to hang cloth in soft folds over the body

waterproof
not letting water pass through; protected from rain

rebellion
a strong action against rules or a popular style

III. READING

London Fashion Week focused on return and renewal, as two major British brands showed spring/summer 2027 designs. Alexander McQueen moved its runway back to London after 25 years. Creative director Seán McGirr mixed severe tailoring with dark romantic touches. Mulberry also returned after nine years.

Christopher Kane's debut centred on the Bayswater bag and leather coats, skirts and loafers. Laura Weir of the British Fashion Council said the aim was to re-platform London as a home for design and growth. Key trends followed.

The "messy girl" aesthetic showed deliberate chaos and rebellion at Chopova Lowena, Sinead Gorey and Conner Ives. "Gardening-core" brought aprons, waterproof materials and trench coats, sparked by Loewe's watering-can bag, and appeared at Erdem, Yuhan Wang and Bora Aksu.

A "modern goddess" mood favoured draped garments, breezy materials and bohemian silhouettes, seen at Pauline Dujancourt. One clear colour led the week: orange, shown by Mulberry, Justin Cassin, Enny Atelier and Vin + Omi.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "London Fashion Week 2026: The five trends we'll...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Which brand moved its runway back to London after 25 years?
2. Who is the creative director at Alexander McQueen?
3. Who made a debut collection for Mulberry?
4. What items define the gardening-core look in the shows?
5. Which colour stood out across several shows?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Which of these trends would you try, and why?
2. Do brand returns help London's creative image?
3. Is messy styling a good form of self-expression?
4. What colour should be next year's big trend?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Alternative comparison

Use 'prefer X to Y' and 'would rather ... than ...' to compare two alternatives. Use 'to' after prefer and 'than' after would rather.

"Designers **prefer tailoring to sloppy cuts**.*"*
"Shoppers **would rather buy a bag than a coat**.*"*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Buyers prefer structured boots (to / than) soft sandals. _____
2. Critics would rather see prints (than / to) plain fabrics. _____
3. Many shoppers prefer leather bags (than / to) plastic ones. _____
4. Models would rather wear loafers (to / than) high heels. _____
5. Some say designers prefer orange (to / than) blue this season. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10–12 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach brand names and how to say them. Drill aesthetic, silhouette, drape, and waterproof for stress and meaning.
- Run a jigsaw reading: assign each group one trend to skim, share key features (items, mood, examples), then rotate and compare. Let students refer to the text rather than their own wardrobes if they prefer.
- Start discussion in pairs to lower pressure, then open to the class. Encourage students to cite shows or items from the text to support opinions.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Have students point to one detail in the text (item, colour, brand) to support their choice.
2. Take a quick poll, then pair students with different views to exchange reasons.
3. If answers stop at ‘yes’ or ‘no’, prompt with where, when, and how they would wear it.
4. List three oranges on the board (melon, tangerine, coral) and ask which works best where.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: Write a 70-word show note describing a ‘modern goddess’ look from the text.

Presentation: In pairs, pitch a 1-minute ‘gardening-core’ outfit using three items named in the text.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Alternative comparison

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Which brand moved its runway back to London after 25 years?
   Alexander McQueen.
2. Who is the creative director at Alexander McQueen?
   Seán McGirr.
3. Who made a debut collection for Mulberry?
   Christopher Kane.
4. What items define the gardening-core look in the shows?
   Aprons, waterproof materials and trench coats.
5. Which colour stood out across several shows?
   Orange.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Buyers prefer structured boots (to / than) soft sandals. **to**
2. Critics would rather see prints (than / to) plain fabrics. **than**
3. Many shoppers prefer leather bags (than / to) plastic ones. **to**
4. Models would rather wear loafers (to / than) high heels. **than**
5. Some say designers prefer orange (to / than) blue this season. **to**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use 'prefer X to Y' and 'would rather ... than ...' to compare two alternatives. Use 'to' after prefer and 'than' after would rather. (Examples constructed.)

"Designers **prefer tailoring to sloppy cuts**.*"*
"Shoppers **would rather buy a bag than a coat**.*"*