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Chapter 10: Buying and Caring for Clothes—Glossary

accessories. Items worn to accent clothing.

acrylic. Manufactured fiber that is softer than wool and does not feel scratchy.

bleaches. Chemicals that will lighten fabrics and sometimes remove all color.

blend. A combination of two or more different fibers, filaments, or yarns.

boutiques. Small specialty stores.

classic. A style that stays in fashion for a long time.

consignment store. A store that sells pre-owned clothing where the original owner receives part of the profits.

cotton. Natural fiber from cotton plants used to make cotton fabric.

dry-clean. To clean with chemicals instead of detergent and water.

Dry-Clean Only. Product care label instructions; the garment may be ruined if machine washed.

fabric. Cloth made by weaving or knitting yarns or by pressing fibers together.

fabric softeners. Chemicals used when washing or drying to make fabrics feel better against your skin.

fad. A new style that is popular for only a short time.

fashion. Styles that are popular at a given time.

fibers. Hair-like strands that can be twisted together to form yarn.

filaments. Long, continuous fibers made from chemicals.

filling. Horizontal set of yarn when weaving.

finish. A treatment given to fibers, yarns, or fabric to improve the look, feel, or performance of a fabric.

flax. Natural fiber used to make linen fabric.

hangtags. Larger tags with information about the garment or manufacturer that are attached to garments, but removed before worn.

inventory. A list of items you have on hand.

ironing. Moving an iron back and forth over fabric.

labels. Small pieces of cloth sewn into the garment with important information about the garment's fabric content and recommended care.

nylon. Manufactured fiber that is strong and holds its shape well.

overstock. Items produced, but not ordered by retail stores.

pilling. Small, fuzzy balls that form on the outside of fabric.

polyester. Manufactured fiber that is strong and resists wrinkles.

pressing. Lifting and lowering an iron onto an area of fabric.

prewash products. Chemicals used to remove oily stains and dirt from clothes before they are washed.

ramie. Natural fiber used to make ramie fabric.

rayon. Manufactured fiber that looks like cotton.

silk. Natural fiber from the cocoons of silkworms used to make silk fabric.

sort. To group clothes according to the way you will wash them.

spandex. Manufactured fiber that stretches like rubber.

standards of dress. The clothes that are acceptable in your country and community.

style. A distinctive form of dress or the design of a garment.

value. Buying the highest quality of clothing for the lowest prices.

virtual fit. Method of using a person's body measurements to show that body image with clothing on the computer.

wardrobe. All the clothes and accessories you have to wear.

warp. Vertical set of yarn when weaving.

wool. Natural fiber from sheep's fleece used to make woolen fabrics.

yarn. A continuous strand of fibers.