



LS PICK

## TALKING ABOUT A B E A N I E !

**A** beanie is a knit cap, originally of wool, with a simple, tapering construction. As winter is upon us with all its might, a warm beanie will come in handy. We literally grew up wearing this cap. Our earliest photos show us adorning one; as we grew older the ubiquitous head-gear was with us all the way. At one point in our lives, we parted ways with this attire only to pick it up later on because of its versatility, functionality and style factor.

The beanie was initially worn by the working class – seafarers, fishermen, hunters and others who spent long working hours outdoors. Found almost in all parts of the world, the knit cap can be found under a multitude of local names. The word 'Beanie' itself is derived from the word 'bean', which is referred to a person's head.

Most beanies are tapered at the top. The cap rests secure with the stretch of the knitting hugging the head. They are sometimes topped with a pom-pom or loose tassels. Knit caps may have a folded brim, or none, and may be worn tightly fitting the head or loose on top.



A South American tradition from the Andes Mountains is for the cap to have ear flaps, with strings for tying under the chin. A special type of cap called a 'balaclava' that originated during the Crimean War folds down over the head with openings for just the face or for the eyes or mouth only, to cope with the bitter cold weather of Crimea.

Some modern variants are constructed as a parallel sided tube, with a draw-string closure at one end. This version can be worn as a neck-warmer with the draw-string loose and open, or as a hat with the draw-string pulled tight and closed.

Beanies are must-have accessories for bikers and cyclists who brave through the scything winter winds exposing their faces. As casual wear, beanies impart a relaxed, casual vibe. Needless to say, it's unisex and suitable for people of all ages. Ideally in solid colours like black, grey, red, brown, etc. beanies sometimes have a contrasting shade in the stretch of the cap.

Beanies are available everywhere from branded retailers across the city and to street-side vendors.

- LS Desk

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