

Fifty shades of formal

Do not pull your hair off its roots if you are having trouble figuring out a dress code - it is not necessarily as difficult to decipher as you may think. So walk by me as we stroll through different events and for once, making a note of the 'appropriate' dress-code.

BLACK TIE

Do not take the name literally and wear a black, neck tie. This name is associated with what is known as a tuxedo. This is the younger sibling of 'white tie' (most formal attire), and came into the picture because the younger generation wanted to wear an outfit more comfortable yet of a similar concept.

You must be very careful to stick to the rules when asked to wear this attire. The bow tie is made of silk and the jacket of the tuxedo must either be tailored to a peak or

shawl lapel. Both these lapels' fabrics must complement the bow tie and be made of silk. You can either wear a cummerbund or a waist coat underneath the jacket. Now, if you are wearing a single breasted jacket you can wear either one of these underneath it but, if you opt for a double-breasted suit none of these should be worn underneath.

Wear a white linen pocket square and do not forget to add a classic boutonniere on the lapel. The shirt is button less to which

must be added black or dark studs. A narrow line of silk runs down the two sides of the trousers, which are worn with black patent leather Oxfords or pumps. Also, make sure that you are wearing calf length dress socks.

This attire is mostly seen to be worn by the groom and his entourage and is advised to be worn in highly formal events such as award ceremonies or weddings. Too much rules to follow, eh? Add spice to it with a colourful cummerbund, bow-tie or even a

patterned jacket when the dress code is 'Creative Black Tie'.

SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE

I am sorry to be bursting your bubbles, but unfortunately semi-formal attire which we mostly categorise as occasions when people tuck in their shirts into their trousers and wear leather shoes is actually casual attire. Although a black tie or a stroller suit originally fell in this category, today a dark suit with matching vest and a simple tie falls under this group.

