Etiquette
The name game

BLAZER: A WARDROBE MUST-HAVE

The blazer was designed in the 1800's as a club jacket for the rowing team at Cambridge University. Over the years it transitioned into uniform for the armed forces, cricketers, golfers, even rock bands (The Rolling Stones). Owing to its versatility, in the past few decades it has emerged as a wardrobe must-have since it can be dressed-up for a business meeting or dressed-down for a drink at the pub.

• **Business Meetings:** In certain business settings, the business suit maybe too formal and it's best to opt for a solid dark blazer; team it with a smart bright tie, dress shirt, formal trousers and shoes. Women can substitute the tie for a scarf/ trendy piece of jewelry

• **Friday Dressing:** Wear the blazer with a crisp button-down shirt, chinos and formal shoes for business casual Fridays at the office. This attire is suitable for an impromptu meeting with your CEO, a quick chat with your banker at a private club or an informal client dinner at an upscale restaurant.

• **Semi-casual evenings:** A blazer teamed with straight-cut dark denims, a button-down shirt and a pair of trendy shoes is ideal attire for team drinks, dinner at a high street café or party at your boss's home.

• **Weekend Casual:** A blazer coordinated with denims, collarless t-shirt or turtle/crew neck (a la The Beatles) and coloured shoes is perfect attire for an evening of jazz, comedy or at a night club.

• **Traveling overseas:** Owing to the cooler temperature in the many parts of the world, a blazer makes a perfect jacket while traveling, when invited for a meal /drinks to the local pub or when visiting a colleague's home. Team it with a collared t-shirt and matching brown belt / shoes.

• **Society Do's:** Although rarely seen in India, blazers paired with plaid shorts/ white pants, polo shirts and canvas shoes are popular abroad at champagne brunches hosted in beach houses and yachts.

Tip: Choose a blazer in a colour which can be worn in any season and is globally fashionable - my recommendation, invest in a solid navy blue one.

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