

BARBIE'S FASHION SECRETS

Have you ever wondered how Barbie always manages to look fashionable and wished you had all her lovely outfits to wear? Well, Barbie knows the secret of how to dress up the same outfit in many different ways with the help of accessories like belts, gloves and

jewellery. These can all be bought quite cheaply from markets and jumble sales, and can easily transform an everyday outfit into something special to go out in. Here are a few of Barbie's fashion secrets for you to try.



Belts are a quick, easy way to change the look of your clothes. Barbie likes to have a collection of different colours, widths and styles so that even the plainest dress can be given lots of different looks. Wide belts in bright colours like red or yellow can jazz up any outfit for a party, especially if teamed up with bold, fun jewellery. Don't be scared to mix your colours, either; this can be quite effective for party wear.

For a more glittery, disco effect Barbie often wears a gold or silver-coloured belt and teams it with lots of narrow gold or silver-coloured bracelets. Or you could mix gold and silver bangles and necklaces for a metallic look. Add glittering drop earrings to complete the effect.

Coloured socks and tights can give a whole new look to an outfit. For a fun look Barbie wears jazzy ankle socks over coloured tights. For an extra special effect you could sew beads, sequins, lace or even tiny buttons around the edge of your socks. Or try embroidering your own design on plain black socks with a metallic thread.

Gloves can really complement an outfit, too, so Barbie has a few pairs in different colours and fabrics. Why not buy (or knit) a couple of plain pairs and add your own original touch by sewing on beads, sequins or lace around the cuffs?



Scarves are another simple way of brightening up an outfit. Barbie has a collection of different sizes, fabrics and colours. Scarves are so versatile, you can wear them around your neck in a bow, knot, or western fashion. You can tie your hair back with them or wear them as head wraps, or you can use them as belts and sashes, shawls, sarongs or bandeau tops. Experiment with your scarves and see how many different looks you can achieve. A favourite trick of Barbie's is to wear or twist two scarves together.

Barbie knows that hats can be fun as well as keeping your head warm. Berets are quite cheap, come in many colours and look great with a nice badge or brooch. And there's nothing like a gaily coloured knitted hat, scarf and gloves set for brightening up a winter outfit. Barbie likes to team a cosy cowl with winter clothes and thick ribbed tights. And for summer, a straw hat adds a lovely touch to a crisp cotton dress and can be easily dressed up by wrapping different coloured ribbons around it. Cotton caps can be bought very cheaply and look good with jeans, a sundress, shorts or a bathing suit.

Barbie's golden rule is never be scared to experiment. A plain gold or silver chain can be turned into fun jewellery by attaching a fun toy, like the sort you get out of crackers, or try threading some brightly coloured beads on it. Remember that a favourite necklace can also look good wound a few times around your wrist as a bracelet.

Earrings are another important fashion feature and Barbie has a collection of all different kinds. She often brightens up plain earrings by painting them with oil paints but if you try this make sure you give the paint time to dry before you wear them! Why not try Barbie's trick of using a broken chain necklace to jazz up plain stud earrings? Simply break off two equal size bits of chain and put the earring stem through the two chain links. This takes a bit of patience and a steady hand but looks good! If you've lost an earring try wearing different earrings in each ear, maybe a stud in one and a dangler in the other!

The way you wear your hair can also dramatically change the look of your outfit. Barbie has lovely long hair and likes to ring the changes by wearing it in a different style every day and using lots of bows, banana clips and hair bobbles. But even short hair can be brightened up with a variety of hair slides or combs. Experiment and see how many different looks you can create.