

Gown Terms

STYLES

Sheath: A form fitting, body hugging dress with no waistline;

Ball Gown: A fitted bodice with a full skirt. A Scarlet O'Hara look.

Mermaid: A sheath gown to the knees, then flared to the floor. Sometimes referred to as a trumpet skirt.

Empire: Fitted bodice that hangs loosely from the bodice.

Princess: An A-Lined dress but with no waist line.

NECKLINES

Sweetheart: A heart shape at the bust usually revealing some cleavage. Elizabeth Taylor made this look popular.

Portrait: A shawl effect wrapping around your shoulders.

V-Neck: Off the shoulder vertically comes to a "V" above the bust.

Scoop: A low, rounded line.

Jewel: Rounded line circling the neck.

Illusion: Lace that shows skin at the neckline to the bustline in front and as far as the waistline in back.

Decolletage: A plunging neckline that reveals quite a bit of cleavage.

Halter: Buttoned or snapped at the back of the neck leaving much of the back bare but high to the neck in front, leaving shoulders bare.

HEMLINES

Floor Length: This hemline just skims the floor.

Ballet: This hemline falls just to the ankles.

Tea: This hemline is several inches above the ankles.

Intermission: This hemline is floor length in the back but shorter in the front.

Street: This hemline falls just below the knees.

Mini: This hemline is mid-thigh.