

NECKTIE



The necktie is a standard accessory for western attire.

It can enhance the appearance of a suit when worn. Till this day, we are still not sure how it became popular. Some say that the necktie became popular during the medieval period because the doctors, at that time, believed that the throat was the most easily infected organ. So, they suggested that the locals use textiles to cover their necks to prevent any form of infection.

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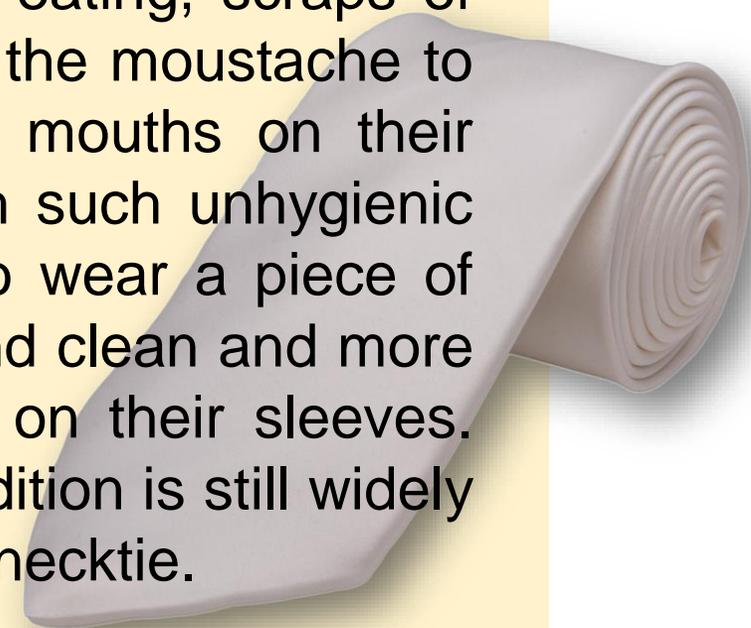
Another widely-circulated story takes place during wartime. Soldiers liked placing textile or clothing which looked like a necktie around their necks to protect their necks and prevent injuries when they were fighting. Based on these two stories, we see that the main function of a necktie from the beginning was not for beauty or for decorative purposes, but mainly for the prevention of illness and injury.



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However, we have three other stories about the invention of the necktie.

The first one claimed that the necktie was invented by the British. In the earlier years, the British were not as sophisticated as their present personas. Their living habits were not hygienic and they liked to use their bare hands to eat meat. On top of that, they liked to grow moustaches. After eating, scraps of food would get caught on or in the moustache. This caused the moustache to become oily and dirty. The British also liked to rub their mouths on their sleeves, thus dirtying the appearance of their sleeves. With such unhygienic acts rampant among the men, the ladies asked the men to wear a piece of cloth around their necks in order to keep their sleeves tidy and clean and more importantly, to prevent the men from rubbing their mouths on their sleeves. Even though England has become a modern country, this tradition is still widely practised, but the collar cloth has now been modified into the necktie.





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The next story tells us that the necktie was invented by the French.

In the 17th century, during the rule of Louis the 14th, a troop of Croatian mercenaries were patrolling the streets of Paris. The cavalymen wore full military uniforms with a piece of cloth around the neck, which appeared very heroic. When the piece of cloth was moved about by the wind, the cavalymen looked even more handsome and heroic. At the same time, some of the richest young men began to dress like the cavalymen by putting a piece of cloth around the collar of their shirts. This way of dressing became so popular that all the young men in Paris started to imitate this fashion trend. Through time, this piece of cloth evolved into a necktie. Subsequently, George Broome, a cavalryman for the Prince of Wales, modified the piece of neck cloth into the shape of the present necktie. When the Prince of Wales wore the necktie, he started a fashion trend that spread like wildfire among the citizens, and eventually the entire world.



NECKTIE

According to the final story, the necktie originated from the Germanic people in Europe. In the olden days, the Germanic people lived in the remote mountains and used animal skin to keep their bodies warm. In order to secure the position of the animal skin, they used ropes to secure and fasten the animal skin around their neck. This way of dressing provided the Westerners with inspiration for a new fashion idea. The Westerners soon modified this pattern to become what is known as the necktie in today's world.





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Food for Thought:

- ✓ The difficulties in our daily lives can lead to innovation and invention.
- ✓ People with an unlimited and rich imagination can discover the potential usefulness of the things surrounding them, thus, enabling them to modify and develop them into more inventions.

