

Disney: Minnie Mouse to swap her dress for a trouser suit

The world's most famous female mouse is getting an outfit makeover.



Pantsuit

Minnie Mouse will soon be changing into a stylish blue pantsuit, swapping out of her traditional red polka dot dress while keeping her iconic bow. The new look was designed by Stella McCartney to celebrate 30 years of Disneyland's Paris resort. Despite the change being just a temporary one, it has been met with a mixed reaction online from Disney fans.

Minnie will debut the blue tuxedo in Disney's Paris entertainment resort from March 2022, where she will wear it in time for Women's History Month. "This new take on her signature polka dots makes Minnie Mouse a symbol of progress for a new generation," McCartney said. Walt Disney Studios has moved in recent years to boost its on-screen diversity, setting films in new locations and casting characters from a wider range of backgrounds.

Reactions

But online reaction to Minnie Mouse's outfit change has been mixed. While some have welcomed the mouse's rebrand, others disliked her departure from the classic ruby red colours, and her well-known dress.

Conservative US commentator Candace Owens criticised the makeover as an attempt to make Minnie Mouse "more masculine", accusing those behind it of trying to "destroy fabrics of our society" in a Fox News interview. Later in the segment the host jokingly compared the outfit choice with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's famous passion for pantsuits. "We'll check in with her office and see whether or not she approves of the changes in Paris", the host laughed.

History

Some fans pointed out online that this isn't the first time Minnie Mouse has worn trousers. In 2019 the cartoon made her debut as "Captain Minnie" on board a Disney Cruise Line, sporting a white pair of sailor trousers.

Minnie Mouse was first introduced to comic book readers almost 100 years ago as the love interest of Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse character. In 1942 it was revealed that her full name is Minerva.

Task 1.

Fill in the table with examples of things that are usually seen as 'manly' or 'womanly'.

Some examples have been given.

	"Manly"	"Womanly"
Clothes	<i>Example: Trousers</i>	
Jobs		<i>Example: Nurse</i>
Items	<i>Example: Cars</i>	

Task 2.

Now read the article: *Disney: Minnie Mouse to swap her dress for a trouser suit*

You may underline or **highlight** difficult words to look them up later in a (digital) dictionary.

Task 3.

Read the following statements. Are they true or false?

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| 1. Both Minnie's dress and bow will be removed. | True / False |
| 2. Minnie will forever wear a trouser suit in Disneyland Paris. | True / False |
| 3. In the last couple years Disney has been working on more diverse films. | True / False |
| 4. Candace Owens thinks Minnie's rebrand makes her look more like a woman. | True / False |
| 5. Hillary Clinton enjoys wearing pantsuits. | True / False |
| 6. 2019 was the first year Minnie wore trousers. | True / False |

Task 4.

Look at the following questions. Discuss with a partner. Give reasons for your opinions.

- What do you think of Minnie Mouse wearing trousers?
- Why do you think some people, such as Candace Owens, struggle with the idea of Minnie Mouse wearing trousers?
- Look back at task 1. What examples that you have written down do you think do not have to be specifically for men or women?
- Do you think you have a gender bias? Why / why not?