

Video zone – How to tie a Windsor knot

Instructions

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do Task 1. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. narrow	a. to join together ends of a piece of string, rope, etc.
2. to tie	b. small in width
3. symmetrical	c. to change something slightly
4. a collar	d. the part of a shirt that goes around your neck
5. a loop	e. a shape or object which has two halves that are exactly the same
6. to adjust	f. to pull something together until it fits more tightly
7. to tighten	g. a circle of something like string that curves back towards itself
8. a knot	h. a place where pieces of material or rope have been tied together

Task 1 – True or false?

Decide if the sentences are true or false.

	Answers	
1. The Windsor knot is a very simple knot to tie.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
2. It's a narrow, triangular knot that's very suitable for presentations.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
3. The wide end of the tie is on the left and the narrow end is on the right.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
4. You need to adjust exactly where the tie should be in the middle of your neck.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
5. To start, cross the narrow end of the tie over the wide end.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
6. To make a symmetrical shape, pull the wide end over the top and then bring it up through the loop again.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
7. You draw the knot up in order to fit your collar.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
8. This type of knot is suitable for widespread collars.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>

Discussion

Do you ever wear a tie?

Transcript

Hello. I'm Charles from Louis Purple, and today I'm going to teach you how to tie a Windsor knot. The Windsor knot is actually a very simple knot to tie, and it's very useful because it projects confidence. So it's a wide, triangular knot that's very suitable for presentations, job interviews or court appearances, which I hope you don't frequent too often. So this is how you start.

You just find the right balance depending on the length of your tie, with the wide end on the right-hand side and the narrow end on the left. You might want to adjust exactly where the centre of the tie should be at in the middle of your neck. So this is how you start. You cross over the wide end over the narrow end. You bring the wide end through the loop between the collar and the tie. And you bring the wide end back down.

Then you just pull the wide end underneath, and then bring it up through the loop again in order to have a symmetrical shape, which should look like this. And you're almost done. There's only the easy part left and the most rewarding. Pull the wide end in front. Bring the wide end underneath, and then slide it inside the loop and tie it in the knot. You draw the knot up in order to fit your collar. So it's a knot that's really suitable for widespread collars. And as I said, then you can just adjust and tighten how big of a knot you like to obtain. This is how you tie a Windsor knot.

Answers

Preparation

1. b
2. a
3. e
4. d
5. g
6. c
7. f
8. h

Task 1 – True or false?

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. False
7. True
8. True