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We think we look so cool, so modern and just a little rebellious in our jeans, white T-shirt and black leather jacket. But we're not as original as we think we are – this look goes back to the 1970s, right? Well, no, not exactly – as a matter of fact, you can trace most of it back to 100 years ago.

Take the white T-shirt and leather jacket. Both started life in the military. The T-shirt (so-called because of its shape like a T) was in fact **underwear**. In the American Navy, it was worn under a uniform. Until the early 20th century, underwear was woollen, but a revolution in textile production produced cotton jersey, a fast-drying **fabric** which fits tightly to the body and kept sailors warm. The short-sleeved T-shirt was born. Leather jackets were worn by fighter pilots in the First World War – they were hard-wearing, warm and fur-lined for maximum protection from the elements. Then, in 1928, an American raincoat company, Schott, designed the first leather motorcycle jacket with a zip.

By the 1950s both **garments** had reached **iconic** status when famous actors like Marlon Brando and James Dean wore them in films. Later, in the 1960s and 1970s, bands from the Beatles to the Ramones adopted the leather jacket, and it moved from motorcycle sports to teenage rebellion. In the 1970s T-shirts got a colourful update: brightly-coloured T-shirts were particularly popular as well as T-shirts with band logos and political slogans. Having started out as an undergarment for men, T-shirts became **unisex** in the 1970s and have been part of everyone's wardrobe since then.

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