

Reading

Which are the oldest- T-shirts, Converse boots or baseball caps? Read the texts to find out!

The T-shirt

White cotton T-shirts were first worn by the US Navy in the 1940s but it was Hollywood movies that made them popular. Actors Marlon Brando and James Dean wore classic white T-shirts in films they made in 1954 and 1955. After this, every young man wanted to wear one. Women began to wear T-shirts from 1959, when the American actor Jean Seberg wore one in a French film. From the mid-1960s, companies like Coca-Cola used T-shirts to improve sales, putting logos or pictures on the front.

Converse boots

Marquis Mills Converse started his shoe company in 1908 but it wasn't until 1917 that he started making basketball boots. Then, in 1921, a basketball player called Chuck Taylor got a sales job with Converse. Chuck made the All-Star basketball boot famous, and in 1923 his name was included on the boot. For many years, 'Chucks' were only available in black but in 1947 a white boot was made. In 1966, the company started making boots and shoes in other colours. Nike bought Converse in 2003.

The baseball cap

The modern baseball cap was born in 1954, when a company developed the '59Fifty' for Major League baseball players to wear. These caps are worn by all kinds of people now, from famous film stars to rap singers – and probably by you as well. They are comfortable and help to keep the sun out of your eyes – unless you wear them back to front, like many tennis players!

Answer the questions with **T** for T-shirt, **C** for Converse boots or **B** for Baseball cap.

For example:

0. Which one is the oldest? **C**

1. Which one was first seen in films?
2. Which one is useful in hot weather?
3. Which one became well-known because of a sport person?
4. Which one is sometimes worn in a different way?
5. Which one was only available in two colours until 1960s?
6. Which one was used as an advertisement for a drink?
7. Which one belongs to another company now?

Complete the timeline with years from the text.

Marlon
Brando's film
came out

More men
were wearing
T-shirts (but
not women)

Jean Seberg
wore T-shirt
in a film.

Men and
women were
both wearing
T-shirts.



_____ - 1958





1960