**Got an occasion? There's a jean for that.**

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Jeans are the most universally beloved fashion item on the planet *[worn in practically every country in the world]*. From grade school slackers to [Wall Street](http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/17390/188551) venture capitalists, when people can wear anything they want, they usually choose denim.

However, not all denim is created equal or for the same purpose. The proletariat staple you'd wear to the [farmer's market](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farmer%27s_market) is probably not the same pair that you'd wear to the symphony. And, yes, jeans are ubiquitous but not without detractors.

There are still critics who object to the renaissance of denim. To them, jeans are for laboring, not socializing. These critics are probably the same population pulling out their hair over the misuse of the word, "literally"; they don't realize that the battle is lost.

If there's an event where you can wear pants, there is a pair of jeans you can wear. Men have worn jeans to weddings — even grooms. Women have worn jeans to galas and, now ... exercise classes.

Yes, scoff all you want, but there is a jean for every occasion — skinny, bootcut, trouser, straight leg, boyfriend, flared, wide leg, tapered, jegging, zip ankle, faded, distressed, destroyed, raw. This year, the St. Louis-based Kellwood Co. announced yet another new line of denim aptly (although not euphoniously) christened Democracy Declaration of Jean Dependence.

We'd sign that declaration, so consider us among the converted.

Here are some suggestions if you'd like to join us.

JEANS FOR YOGA • Second Denim has a line of yoga jeans intended to be worn during class. The jeans stretch in every direction and have shape memory, so after a few sun salutations, they shouldn't get baggy around the knees. See the jeans in action at [secondclothing.com/yogavideo.](http://secondclothing.com/yogavideo.) The lightweight denim active wear is available in regular cut, low-cut and extra-low cut and the legs can be flared, straight or legging. We tried on a pair, and the jeans are definitely comfortable and super stretchy, but someone with a curvier figure won't feel comfortable doing downward dog in public wearing these ($110) at Blue Moon Athleticwear, 159 Carondelet Plaza.

JEANS FOR WORK • Of course this all depends on where you work, but for a typical office or corporate setting, you'll want something simple without flashy studded pockets or heavily embroidered details. A darker wash always looks more professional, and the most popular cuts are trouser, boot cuts and skinny. Skinny can be harder to pull off if it looks too sexy, but that will depend on your styling. For fall, boots are the perfect mate for [skinny jeans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skinny_jeans). Dana Buchman's dark rinse skinny ($50) at Kohl's has a nice finish and some versatility.

JEANS FOR A ROCK CONCERT • Everyone should have a pair of rock star jeans. We love the trendy variety of skinny motorcycle jeans, so noted for the stitching that mimics motorcross pants, but if you want longevity, you might opt for a traditional bootcut or slim leg. Choose something with a funky vintage wash and a studded back pocket, such as the Sang Real ($98) at [Ivy Hill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivy_Hill), 304 North Euclid, with golden wings on the back pockets and grommet details. NOTE: Pockets are your butt's best friend or arch enemy. Larger butts can benefit from slightly larger pockets. Smaller butts can use smaller pockets or pockets with button flaps to appear more well-rounded. Pockets should sit up and center where your behind looks perkiest, not sliding down your thigh. And remember that any embellishment adds visual weight to your posterior, so if you've got a lot going on back there physically, you don't want a lot of detail adding unwanted bulk.

JEANS FOR SLEEPING • As nutty as it sounds, there is now a product called Pajama Jeans. The dark wash cotton pants are billed as jeans you can sleep in. But the pants are a bit heavy for sleepwear because of the denim finish. The bootcut design has a drawstring waist, five-pocket design and distinct yellow denim stitching. The inside feels cozy and soft like sweatpants, and the exterior looks like inexpensive jeans. We wouldn't call them fashion forward. If you want jeans you can roll out of bed in and run to the [post office](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_office) or slip on in a hurry and run out to carpool kids for school, this might be a good choice. We suggest wearing a tunic top that covers the cheap-looking pocket details. Available in eight sizes XS to 3XL ($39.95) at [pajamajeans.com](http://pajamajeans.com).

JEANS FOR DANCING • Look for something lightweight with stretch, such as the Ultimate Wash jeans from Citizens of Humanity ($180-$199) at Daisy Clover, Webster Groves. The jeans come in low- or mid-rise, skinny and bootcut. The jeans have a four-way stretch, are wildly comfortable and also tend to keep their shape. They are available in a medium blue, no distressing and just a little fashionable fading in front. After hearing about the pajama jeans, Natalie Wood of Daisy Clover said that if she were going to sleep in jeans, she'd choose these.

JEANS FOR COCKTAIL PARTY • Cocktails are flirty, so who's to say a great cigarette pant that stops at the ankle can't fit right in. Dark denim is best in black or navy, but the fit should be slim. Kate Spade just introduced The Broome Street Jeans ($195) at Kate Spade, Plaza Frontenac, a great pair of indigo skinny jeans that would look great with a silk top, crystal bib necklace, sparkly ballet flats or tall heels.

JEANS FOR SEMI-FORMAL • You'll need a black or nearly black blue wash with no abrasions, fading, rips or tears, a great blouse, maybe a jacket and careful accessories. For semi-formal denim we suggest a trouser leg that's mid- to high-rise. These should fit very well at the waist and then flow straight down to just a quarter-inch above your heels (low kitten-heels are fine). Look for a lighter weight denim that isn't [stiff](http://www.health.com/health/fibromyalgia) and make sure nothing else is casual. Your shoes, hair, makeup, clutch and jewelry should have some luxe sparkle or jewel-toned color. We'd suggest the Paige "Hidden Hills" ($169) at Daisy Clover in a twilight wash that is available in a midrise bootcut or the ultra skinny dark wash from Dish Jeans ($98) at Ivy Hill Boutique called the Paris jean, also dark blue.

JEANS FOR YARD WORK • Remember when jeans were made for manual labor? Yeah, neither do we. Anyway, our first suggestion is to use jeans that are past their prime, but if you're actually looking for new jeans we suggest something inexpensive and comfy. Old Navy's Dreamer [bootcut jeans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bootcut_jeans) ($34.50) are available in four faded washes that are good for hiding dirt and feature a contoured waistband that's great for bending. And the jeans come with inseams for regular sizes, talls and petites.

JEANS FOR MEN • Just a note about men in jeans. You need to start asking "Does this make my butt look good?" It's an old joke, but it matters. At least it matters to those of us who have to look at it. Every guy looking for a hip pair of jeans seems to be attracted to the distinctive pockets of True Religion, but the [William Rast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_rast) "Billy" jeans ($195-$210) at Moris Fashions, 26 Maryland Plaza have some pretty nice detail as well.

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