The Story of Blue Jeans

Blue jeans began as tough work clothes for prospectors and miners. Made of sturdy fabric and dyed deep blue or indigo so they wouldn’t show dirt and stains, blue jeans were perfect for men who worked with picks and shovels.

Blue Jeans and Frontiers

Like many people who lived on the frontier, Nevada tailor Jacob Davis was a resourceful problem solver. One day in 1871, a customer complained that the pockets in her husband’s pants were always tearing, perhaps because of the gold nuggets he carried. Davis looked around his shop for something stronger than thread to hold the pockets in place. Some copper rivets—fasteners for horse blankets—were lying on the table. “The thought struck me to fasten the pockets with rivets,” Davis later said. “I had never thought of it before.” Davis soon began making workpants.
that were reinforced with rivets.

Prospectors and miners soon heard of the tough new pants, and Davis was kept busy making them. He wanted to apply for a patent for his invention, but he didn’t have enough money. He contacted the man he bought his cloth from, Levi Strauss. Strauss agreed to be his partner. They received the patent, and Levi Strauss & Co. began manufacturing the reinforced workpants using blue denim fabric.

Blue Jeans Become Popular

For the next 80 years, men who worked outdoors bought most of the blue jeans. Then in the 1950s and 1960s, jeans began to appear often in movies, advertisements, and magazines. People connected them with youth, independence, and rebellion. Young men and women liked the way they looked and felt, and manufacturers hurried to create different styles. Soon, people were adding beads, coloured thread, and paint to make their jeans stand out. Designers began using blue jeans and
denim in high fashion.

In the 1960s, making jeans used a lot of energy and strong chemicals. Today, new energy-saving processes are used. Scientists have developed dyes that use fewer strong chemicals. They are even working on a “bug wash” that uses bacteria, instead of chemicals, to turn the fabric dark blue!

Blue jeans are part of our culture. They come in all shapes and styles. Books and songs are written about them. Rock bands and perfumes have been named after them. Recently, a pair of blue jeans from the 1870s sold in an auction for $75 000!

Today, almost everyone in Canada has a favourite pair. Look around you. How many people are wearing jeans? What’s your favourite style?
\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{E} = Errors \hspace{1cm} \textbf{SC} = Self-corrections \hspace{1cm} \textbf{msv} = meaning, syntax, visual
\item Errors: \hspace{1cm} Self-corrections: \\
\textbf{Accuracy rate}: Count errors that the student did not self-correct. Circle his or her accuracy rate.
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
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\% & 100 & 99 & 98 & 97 & 96 & 95 & 94 & 93 & 92 & 91 & 90 & 89 & 88 \\
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\end{tabular}
\item \textbf{Reading fluency}: Hesitant \hspace{1cm} Word-by-word \hspace{1cm} Fluent and phrased
\item \textbf{Word-solving strategies}: Use information gathered in the student's oral reading record to note if the student
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
uses letter(s)/ sound(s) & uses syllables & rereads & self-correction & other: \\
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