

## A Short Story of Pants

Men did not always wear long pants. Until about 1800, well-dressed men wore short pants and long stockings. That way, people could admire men's good-looking legs. Men would look in the mirror to judge which of their legs was the better looking. When they went to parties, they would stand with the better-looking leg in front of the other. We still tell people to put their best foot forward.

Sometimes men had special pants to wear just to parties. These pants were very tight. The men could not sit down all evening.

When did women start wearing pants? Around 1850, women began to play sports. The style at the time was long, full skirts. But the skirts got in the way.

Writer Amelia Bloomer had an idea. She said women should wear loose pants. She wore pants that came to her knees. Everyone laughed at her. Then the bicycle was invented. Women found that their skirts got caught in the gears. By 1890 pants for women were very popular. They were called bloomers.