

The White Dress

Silhouette Quiz Answer Guide

Trumpet or Mermaid



A trumpet or mermaid silhouette is best for brides who are slim or who are well-proportioned and like to flaunt their curves! This style is fitted throughout the body and flares out somewhere in your thigh region. The difference between a trumpet and mermaid is where that flare, the skirt, begins – a true mermaid won't flare out until below your knee. (This makes the mermaid silhouette a challenging style to move around in. At The White Dress, we mostly stock trumpet gowns because of this fact.)

So where does the skirt flare start? All trumpet gowns are just a little bit different – some are fitted until your upper thigh, some are fitted through your mid-thigh, and some are fitted until just above the knee. Keep in mind that the more petite you are, the higher up you want the skirt flare to start to help you appear taller (meaning, fitted to the upper to mid-thigh).

Sheath



This silhouette is for you if you are naturally slim or are very well proportioned (meaning, your hip and bust are fuller with a smaller waist). A sheath gown is fitted, but does not have a full skirt – so basically it is a column without differentiation between the top and bottom.

Some sheath styles are in the form of a slip dress – which are super comfortable, but also have zero structure (so they will show even the tiniest lump or bump). Just be prepared to don shape wear if you are not naturally slim and love the look of a slip dress.

Ballgown



A ballgown is another universally flattering silhouette. Ballgowns have a distinct top and bottom to the dress – fitted on top with a fuller skirt on the bottom. The waistline on ballgowns (where the skirt flare begins) is going to be either an empire waist, a natural waist, or a drop waist. Ballgowns highlight your waist (usually the tiniest part on a woman) and give a very regal look.

Keep in mind that ballgowns vary in their poufiness, and that can always be adjusted during the alterations process. And fun fact – many A-line dresses can turn into a ballgown with some added crinoline!

Fit and Flare or A-line



This style is for you if you are looking for a silhouette that will give you both comfort and the ability to showcase your figure. This silhouette is the most universally flattering – almost every figure can rock this look!

A fit and flare gown is one that is fitted through the top of the hip and flares out from there. The flare can be minimal or great – so pick the skirt type that you like best.

An A-line gown is similar to the fit and flare...and frankly, there is a semi-gray area between the two silhouettes – each bridal shop and designer use these terms a little differently. A true A-line is fitted to your waist which is where the skirt begins. Again, the skirt can be a slimmer style or a bit fuller – once you start adding the pouf though, you are headed into the ballgown category!

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