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Acetate: A man-made material created with cellulose. It is resistant to moth balls and shrinking, but it is not a very durable material. Its defining characteristics are a soft crisp feel and lustrous face.

Acrylic: Man-made material that feels like wool, but can withstand machine washing and drying.

Appliqué: A shape cut out from a piece of fabric and attached to a separate piece of fabric. This separate piece can be attached by sewing machine or an adhesive.

Brocade: A heavy fabric made with Jacquard loom and satin weave, usually with a floral pattern. Very oriental, old-world look.

Canvas: A plain weave fabric that is heavy and durable, made from piled yarn using an even weave.

Cashmere: Made from the soft undercoat of the cashmere goat. It is a lightweight, luxurious wool fabric that does not take well to machine washing or drying.

Chantilly Lace: Originating in Chantilly, France, this is a type of lace with a netted background and heavy, embroidered floral patterns with outlines made from heavier thread.

Chiffon: Extremely sheer fabric made with crepe fibers. It is lightweight and has a slightly bumpy texture.

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Corduroy: Durable cotton or cotton-blend fabric that is made by twisting fibers that, when lying next to each other, create parallel lines. The number of ribs (or wales) per inch tells you which type of corduroy it is, ranging from 3 wales (widest) to 21 wales per inch.

Cotton: Made from cotton plant fibers. Very durable fabric that is breathable, lightweight, and machine washable. Most widely used natural fiber.

Crepe: Fine, wrinkled, gauze-like fabric that has a harsh texture. Found in many different weights and levels of transparency.

Crocheted: French meaning "hook", this is a method of creating fabric similar to knitting that involves using a tool with a knobbed end used to pull loops of yarn through other loops. Different from knitting in that it only involves one loop at a time.

Denim: A durable twill weave cotton fabric made with different colored yarns in the warp and the weft. The weft passes under two or more warped fibers, which creates a diagonal ribbing on the other side of the fabric. This type of construction causes one color to dominate the fabric's surface (usually blue).

Eyelet: Fabric with patterned cutouts, using embroidered stitching around them as part of the design.

Faux Fur: Fabric made with man-made materials created to look like animal fur.

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Felt: A non-woven fabric that is pressed and matted together. Because of its grain it can be cut in any direction without fraying.

Flannel: Soft twill weave made with cotton or wool that has a slightly napped surface.

Gingham: Most often made with cotton, this is a checkered-patterned fabric featuring dyed and undyed fibers.

Houndstooth: Originating Scotland, this is a two-toned pattern featuring broken checks.

Jacquard: Weaving method used to create intricate fabrics, such as brocade or damask. It often uses silk, polyester or rayon fibers. It involves a specialized machine that attaches to a loom and electronically selects individual warp threads.

Jersey: General term used for any knit garment or fabric that is resilient, crease resistant, flexible, and stretchy. Denoted by length-wise ribs on one side and cross-wise ribs on the opposite.

Knit: Type of fabric made by inter-meshing loops of yarn, creating a stretchy fabric. Fleece, pique, and jersey are types of knits.

Lace: A decorative fabric made by looping yarns together. Creates a raised pattern.

Leather: Material made using tanned animal hides (usually cattle).

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Linen: Made from flax plant fibers and is lightweight and breathable. It is more durable and lustrous than cotton.

Lycra: Trademark name of DuPont's fabric of spandex fibers.

Matte Jersey: Rayon or silk-blended fabric that is lightweight and elastic, which is soft and has a crepe-like texture.

Mohair: Long hairs from the angora goat, which are durable and soft. Prone to shedding.

Moleskin: Durable cotton-made fabric with short, thick, velvety nap. The surface resembles suede.

Muslin: Lightweight and sheer cotton fabric usually made in India.

Organza: Traditionally the silk version of organdy, this is an extremely crisp, sheer, lightweight fabric made by tightly twisting silk yarns. It can be made with other materials besides silk.

Pashmina: Similar to cashmere, this is made from the fine underhair of goats found in central Asia.

Polyester: Condensation polymers that combine to create a synthetic fiber that is durable, quick drying, and resistant to wrinkling.

Sateen: Made using cotton, this fabric is soft and durable, made with a satin weave.

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Satin: Different from sateen in that it uses fibers such as silk and nylon. Smooth, shiny fabric that has a dull back and great drape.

Silk: Fabric made using the fibers produced from the silk worm. It is a strong fabric with a natural sheen that can be used in a lot of different ways.

Suede: Leather that has a velvety nap.

Taffeta: Smooth yet crisp fabric that gives clothing a lot of body and rustle. Made from many different fibers, such as silk or rayon.

Tulle: Lightweight, fine, netted fabric made into hexagonal shapes.

Viscose: Typically referred to as rayon, this is a man-made synthetic fabric that has a great drape and silky feel.

Voile: Resembling organza, this is a loosely woven fabric that is semi-transparent.