

Sewing Vocabulary List

	Term	Definition
1.	Alterations	Modifications that change a garment in some way
2.	Appliqué	Cutout pieces of fabric applied as a decoration
3.	Basting	Holding fabric in place temporarily with pins or long stitches
4.	Bias	Diagonal line formed when the crosswise grain is parallel to the selvage
5.	Bias binding	Covers raw edges and creates decorative trims when sewing a garment
6.	Casing	Closed tunnel of fabric that holds a piece of elastic or a drawstring inside
7.	Clipping	Making tiny clips or snips in the seam allowance every ¼ to ½ inch
8.	Darts	Triangular folds of fabric stitched to a point when sewing a garment
9.	Directional stitching	Stitching in the direction of the grain
10.	Ease	Amount of room needed for comfort and movement in a garment
11.	Facings	Finishes a raw edge on a garment, such as a neckline or an armhole
12.	Gathers	Soft folds of fabric formed by pulling up basting stitches to make the fabric fit into a smaller space
13.	Grading	To trim each layer of the seam allowance to a different width to reduce bulk
14.	Grain	Directions the yarn run in a woven fabric
15.	Inseam	Inside leg measurement on pants, from the crotch to the hemmed edge
16.	Interfacing	Piece of fabric placed between the outer fabric and facing to prevent stretching, add shape or add crispness to a certain area
17.	Ironing	Process of removing wrinkles from clothes with an iron using back & forth motion
18.	Lining	Fabric used to finish the inside of a garment; constructed separately & then joined at one or more major seams
19.	Lockstitch	Type of stitch that does not pull out or unravel when a loop or loose thread is pulled
20.	Mitered	Made to fit together with a precise right angle at the corner, makes sharp corners and eliminates bulk when sewing garments
21.	Nap	Soft & fuzzy surface on a fabric
22.	Patchwork	Sewing craft in which small fabric shapes are sewn together to create a new, decorative fabric
23.	Pressing	When the iron is lowered to the fabric, then raised up and lowered again in an up and down motion
24.	Raw edges **	The cut edges of a piece of fabric that has loose threads

25.	Reverse stitching **	Backstitching on the machine by retracing stitches
26.	Seam allowance	Extra fabric inside the garment between the seam line and the fabric edge
27.	Seam finish	Any method that stitches or trims seam allowances to prevent fraying
28.	Selvage	Self-edge formed by the filling yarn when it turns to go back in the other direction
29.	Shirring	Method of gathering fabric with several rows of gather
30.	Slip stitch **	Hand stitching method that is used on a folded edge that is almost invisible
31.	Stay stitching	A row of stitching on just one layer of fabric that prevents fabric edges from stretching
32.	Trim	To cut off extra fabric
33.	Under stitch	To stitch the seam allowance to the facing to prevent the seam from rolling to the outside
34.	Whipstitch	A diagonal hand stitch
35.	Yardage	Amount of fabric