Faces come in many different shapes – oval, round, square, triangular, pear-shaped, diamond-shaped, and heart-shaped. The oval shape is generally considered ideal.

You can’t change the shape of your face, but you can use your hair, neckline, and collar style to create optical illusions that give you something like the look you want.

Your face is almost always the center of interest. Your hair frames your face on three sides and the neckline of your garment forms the fourth side. Use the pointers below to find the hair style and neckline or collar that form the most attractive frame for your face.

Hair

- If your face is **round**, create an angular illusion with longer and fuller hair.

- If your face is **slender**, wear your hair long in a fuller style. Straight and short hair accentuates the slenderness.

- The **oval** face is considered the ideal. If you have an oval face, wear your hair full at the top and close to the sides for a vertical effect.

- If your face is **square**, part your hair high and about half way to the crown to lengthen your face and round it off. Add a soft wave or curl and wear hair longer on the sides.

- If your face is **pear-shaped**, wear your hair short and flat at the ears, with fullness at the forehead.

- If your face is **diamond shaped**, wear your hair long enough so it covers your ears, with fullness at the temples. Use curls to cover your cheeks.

- If your face is **heart-shaped**, wear and keep wide bangs, your hair medium to long and full at the jaw line and back of the neck.

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Necklines and Collars

- Round necklines will shorten and widen your face. Those that lengthen and narrow your face will be V- or U-shaped.

- V-necklines increase height – how much depends on the depth and angle at the shoulder line.

- The more skin that is exposed, the wider the face looks.

- Lines which repeat facial contours emphasize them. Square necklines make a square face squarer. Round necklines make a round face rounder.

- Lines which are in sharp contrast to facial contours also emphasize them. Round necklines make square faces look squarer. Square necklines make round faces look rounder.

- Necklines worn close to the neck shorten the length of the face.

- Necklines with dominant horizontal lines add width.

- Necklines with dominant vertical lines add length.

- Cowl necklines can add length or width, depending upon how they are draped.

- A convertible collar creates one look when it is buttoned and another look when it is unbuttoned.

- Wearing a tie or ribbon can change the look of your face.

Look at the following collar styles. Which ones would be becoming for the round face? The square face? The pear-shaped face? The oval face? The diamond-shaped face? The heart-shaped face? The oblong face?

Determine the collar style that is best for you.