

Last-Minute Costume Cheat Sheet

Costumepedia

10 costumes you can make tonight, mostly from your own closet.

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1 Ghost

10 min

You need: twin flat sheet, scissors, marker, a cap or wide hat

Do it: Mark your eyes, cut holes bigger than you think, wear the hat underneath for a round head, trim to just brush the floor.

☐ **Worth buying:** round novelty sunglasses

2 Cat

15 min

You need: all-black outfit, cat ears, eyeliner

Do it: Black head to toe. Triangle nose, line to the lip, three whiskers per cheek, winged eye. Wire the tail so it curves up.

☐ **Worth buying:** cat ears and tail set

3 Witch

20 min

You need: long black dress or skirt and top, a broom, a pointed hat

Do it: Go long and dark, add one pop of color (purple sash, striped tights). Stuff a floppy hat cone with tissue.

☐ **Worth buying:** witch hat with a wired brim

4 Zombie

30 min

You need: old clothes, gray and dark eyeshadow, fake blood

Do it: Pick a "before" job. Tear clothes by hand, rub in dirt, gray the skin, sink the eyes. Let the blood dry before you leave.

☐ **Worth buying:** washable fake blood

5 Mad Scientist

20 min

You need: white lab coat or big white shirt, goggles, rubber gloves, hairspray

Do it: Coffee-stain the coat, roll the sleeves, tease the hair straight up. Glow stick in a clear bottle for a prop.

☐ **Worth buying:** cheap white lab coat

6 Scarecrow

25 min

You need: plaid flannel, overalls or old jeans, a hat, raffia

Do it: Tuck raffia bundles (tied with rubber bands) into cuffs and pockets. Rosy cheeks, triangle nose, stitched smile.

☐ **Worth buying:** a bundle of craft raffia

7 Cowboy

10 min

You need: cowboy hat, boots, jeans, western or plaid shirt, bandana

Do it: Bandana at the neck, biggest belt buckle you own. Skip toy guns, since most places ban them.

☐ **Worth buying:** a real-looking felt or straw hat

8 80s Aerobics

20 min

You need: something neon, leggings, sweatband or scrunchie, hairspray

Do it: Bright top over leggings, leg warmers, side ponytail, teased roots, blue eyeshadow to the brow.

☐ **Worth buying:** neon leg warmers

9 Hippie

15 min

You need: flared jeans, flowy or tie-dye top, round sunglasses, headband

Do it: Headband across the forehead, center part, beads or flowers. No glitter or platforms, or it turns into disco.

☐ **Worth buying:** round tinted sunglasses

10 Pirate

15 min

You need: loose white shirt, dark pants, boots, two scarves, eye patch

Do it: Pants into boots, one scarf at the waist, one on the head, shirt untucked and wrinkled. Smudge a little shadow under the eyes.

☐ **Worth buying:** a tricorn hat

Pick one color

Repeat a single accent color head to toe and any thrown-together outfit looks intentional.

Buy one piece

Spend on the item people recognize first (the hat, the ears, the wig) and build the rest from your closet.

Test it first

Sit, walk stairs and eat in it before you leave. Better to find the problem at home.

Full guides, history and where to buy every costume: [costumepedia.com](https://www.costumepedia.com)