

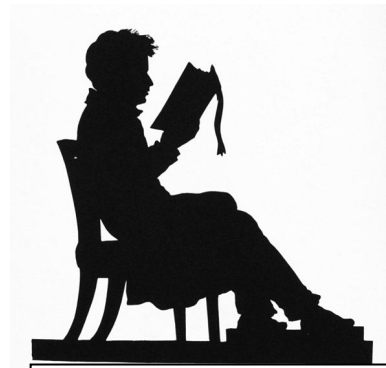
Custom-fitting a chair

Task 1. Understanding the text

A. Check whether the following statements are true or false according to the text, and correct the statements that are false.

True=T False=F

- Seat height should be typically between 16 and 18,5 inches.
- Seats that are too low can cut circulation to the legs.
- Seat width should be 20 to 25 inches.
- Seat depth should be 16 to 20 inches and should support at least two-quarters of the thigh.
- Seats that are too deep force the user to slide forward.
- Seats that are too shallow may make the chair extra stable.
- Chair back should provide adequate back support.



Luise Duttenhofer: Ludwig Tieck, 1817-1828. Copyright has expired.

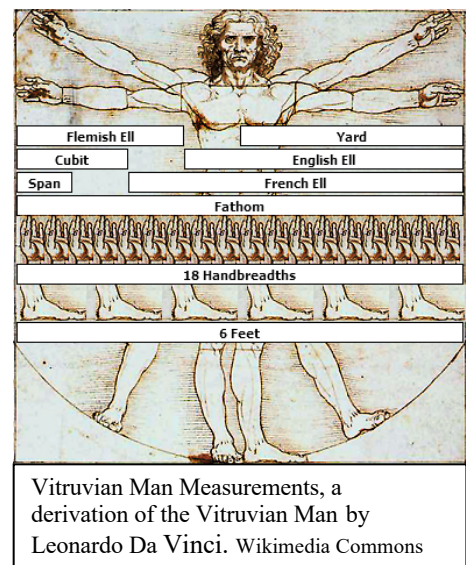
B. Answer the following questions.

- What kind of measurements should be taken to design a custom-built chair?
- What material can be used to make a mock-up chair?
- Where should one measure for seat width?
- For seat height?
- For arm rest height?
- What can happen with the user if seats are too deep or too shallow?
- Why should arm height be 8 to 10 inches above seat?
- Can angle of backrest minimize neck strain?
- Why should seat angle be 0 to 5 degrees from the horizontal?

Task 2. Group work

A. Working with measurements.

Work in small groups of 2-3 pupils. Take all measurements that are necessary to make a custom-fitting chair for your classmates. Explain what you are doing and where you should measure to follow the contours of a particular user's body. Take turns. Get ready to introduce your measurements to class.



Vitruvian Man Measurements, a derivation of the Vitruvian Man by Leonardo Da Vinci. Wikimedia Commons

B. Role play "Foreign customer"

A foreign English-speaking customer has decided to order a custom-built chair at your workshop. You are to take measurements that are necessary to design such a chair and help him to decide on a model.

- One of you plays the role as the English-speaking customer.
You have certain ideas for what kind of chairs you want. Explain these to the workshop owners. You are also open for new ideas.
- The two others play the roles of workshop owners.
You take the necessary measurements and make note of these.
You also suggest models that can be made in your workshop.



Baby in wooden high chair (1935).
Wikimedia Commons

Websites which may be used for inspiration:

- If your customer wants a more traditional and maybe an old-fashioned chair:
[Selling Antiques](http://www.sellingantiques.co.uk/antique-chairs/antique-windsor-chairs/)
(<http://www.sellingantiques.co.uk/antique-chairs/antique-windsor-chairs/>)
- If your customer wants to be inspired by the 100 masterpieces of chairs:
[Vitra Design Museum: 100 masterpieces](http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces.html)
(<http://www.design-museum.de/en/collection/100-masterpieces.html>)
- If your customer wants a very original chair:
[20 Creative And Unusual Chair Designs](http://www.boredpanda.com/creative-and-unusual-chair-designs/)
(<http://www.boredpanda.com/creative-and-unusual-chair-designs/>)