



Are You a SWAG?

SWAGs—*Southern Women Aging Gracefully*—are women of substance. They are the self-appointed last bastions of decorum in our society. If you are a SWAG, you don't need this test. You know who you are. If you're not a SWAG, but you wish you were, or you are surrounded by SWAGs, and you've always wondered what it's all about, or if you're a man struggling to understand the SWAGs in your life, then these questions are for you.

1. **Do you ever wear white shoes in the winter?**
 - a. Sure. Why not?
 - b. Never. Only a nurse wears white shoes as an adult.
 - c. Occasionally. Does winter white count?
2. **Is there any force on earth that could make you wear an ankle bracelet?**
 - a. Sure. You have an entire jewelry drawer dedicated to ankle bracelets.
 - b. Never. Not even if someone put a gun to your head.
 - c. Occasionally. You have to. It was a gift from your mother-in-law.
3. **Have you thought about what outfit and lipstick color you want to be buried in?**
 - a. Nope. You are planning to be cremated. There will be no post-mortem viewing of your lips.
 - b. The outfit is hanging in your closet and described in detail in a "Special Conditions" codicil to your will (along with tips on how to apply your Cherries in the Snow lipstick appropriately).
 - c. Occasionally. You try not to think about such morbid things.
4. **Do you believe the presence of a 100-year-old magnolia tree in a yard is a good reason to buy a house?**
 - a. Nope. You aren't sure what a magnolia tree is. You may even have cut one down.
 - b. Sure. Doesn't everyone?
 - c. Maybe. But you prefer a house surrounded by asphalt. You like to park right by the front door.
5. **You are having a party. How much food do you prepare?**
 - a. No idea. That's why you have the caterer's number on speed dial.
 - b. You prepare enough food for every guest. Then, you double that. Then you make a little bit more, just to be safe.
 - c. You believe Yankee cookbooks with recipes that say "easily feeds twelve."
6. **If you had to give up undergarments or makeup, which one would it be?**
 - a. This question does not apply to you because you regularly go without either one.
 - b. Underwear. You wouldn't walk to the mailbox without your lipstick on.
 - c. You're still looking for another option.
7. **You just finished reading the obituaries and you suddenly feel the urge to _____.**
 - a. Check the paper to see if the deceased's house is already sold.
 - b. Bake a pound cake.
 - c. Pay a condolence call on the attractive surviving spouse.
8. **It's a steamy summer afternoon. You grab a glass of _____.**
 - a. Bottled Evian water.
 - b. Sweetened iced tea with lemon.
 - c. Beer in a can.
9. **You are at a dear friend's wedding reception. You gradually become aware that you have been seated next to the groom's college roommate who tells you that he has recently been released from prison.**
 - a. The first chance you get, you ask your friend to move you to another table.
 - b. You ask him for any laundry tips he may have after working in the prison laundry for the past eighteen months.
 - c. You ask him slightly inappropriate questions, like is he in a gang and how did he feel about wearing that unflattering orange jumpsuit every day.
10. **You and your significant other are considering names for your first child.**
 - a. You buy a book of baby names and highlight your favorites, such as Astra, Apple, and Xanadu.
 - b. You consider the monogramming and engraving potential of every person's name in your extended family—living and dead.
 - c. You use the Internet as your primary source for ideas. You even worry about what the names mean in other languages.

If most of your answers were A's: You are a Yankee, of course. God help you. I can't.

If *all* of your answers were B's: You are obviously an engraved-calling-card carrying SWAG.

If your answers were mostly B's: You've been raised right; you've just let yourself go a little bit. Pull yourself together. Immediately.

If your answers were mostly C's: You are very young, just married into the South and in need of a couple of generations to adjust, or you didn't pay attention when your mama taught you important things.