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Growing out short hair styles

It depends. If you just got a really bad hair cut, then hair seems like it does not grow at all, while hair that you have to shave every day seems to grow like a weed!Ignoring these perceptual differences, human hair seems to grow at a pretty consistent rate of about half a millimeter or so per day, or about half an inch every month (this study quotes a specific rate of 0.44 mm per day). It may grow faster or slower depending on your age, your genetics and your hormonal state (pregnancy seems to have an affect on hair), but half a millimeter per day is a good average.What this means is that the maximum growth rate for hair is about 6 inches (15 cm) per year. If you have short hair and are thinking, "It sure would be nice if I had hair down to my waist," then you are going to have about a four-year wait. For women especially, cutting as much hair off as possible can be the most liberating feeling in the world. Though there's nothing wrong with loving longer, traditionally "feminine" styles, letting go of gender norms and allowing yourself experimentation can open you up to a whole new side of yourself. A shaggy pixie cut, a close-cropped afro, or even a high-and-tight undercut fade will change a person's whole look – and their routine, too.Longer-haired folk might assume that short haircuts require far less styling and upkeep, but ask anyone with short hair to show you their bathroom cabinet and you'll be confronted with an array of gels, creams, pomades, and sprays they rely on for keeping curls coiled, side-parts sleek, and volume intact. Sometimes, shorter strands just need an extra push from products in order to cooperate. That's why we've asked short-haired Allure editors and professional stylists to give us their best short-hair styling picks. Here are 12 of their favorites, spanning all hair types and textures.All products featured on Allure are independently selected by our editors. However, when you buy something through our retail links, we may earn an affiliate commission. The best short haircuts (think Halle, Miley, and Jessica Stam) are cool, feminine, and sexy—so long as you avoid these styling missteps.By Meirav Devash and Deena CampbellNovember 23, 2016NEW YORK, NY - JULY 11: Actress Emma Watson enters the "Late Show With David Letterman" taping at the Ed Sullivan Theater on July 11, 2011 in New York City. (Photo by Ray Tamarra/FilmMagic)FilmMagicPHOTOS: NBC NewsWire/Getty Images, David Cook, Cathy Crawford/Montrose, Ken Scott/Getty Images, Jim Spellman/Getty ImagesLazy women, rejoice and hit snooze. "It's better to blow a short cut around 50 percent dry, run a little wax or serum through it, then let it air-dry on its own," says hairstylist Garren of the Garren New York salon in New York City. "That gives it natural-looking lift."When a woman uses heavy gel to comb her hair back like Dracula, the results can indeed be monstrous. For some chic James Dean swagger, rake it back with a pomade or wax—Garren likes René Furterer Vegetal Styling Wax—"but not slicked to the head," he says. "Keep some height at the top and the sides really tight."Two words: Kate Gosselin. "When you puff up the back and flatten the front like a little Texas bouffant, it looks old-fashioned," says Garren.Too many products, too much heat styling, and too much time spent perfecting your hair in the mirror can result in a dorky Zack Morris helmet. Hairstylist Matt Fugate, who also styles Jessica Stam's hair, suggests a breezy trick involving a dab of wax rubbed vigorously between the hands and a move we'll call the arcade claw: Nestle the fingertips into the hair in a pitchfork formation, then pinch the fingers together and pull hair up through the ends.Hair that's longer at the crown than on the sides is one of the keys to short-haircut harmony; it makes Garren crazy to see bangs being tucked behind the ears or pinned over to one side. "Why did you get bangs if you don't want them? Enjoy them, then move on," he says. (They'll grow out soon enough.)To bring the best out of your curls, David Lopez, celebrity hair stylist and SheaMoisture Ambassador suggests using a texturizing product to modernize your haircut, such as SheaMoisture's Sea Kelp & Pearl Protein Texture Spray. "But don't give your hair too much bend, otherwise it will start to look matronly." "Use a flatiron instead to create waves with a flatter finish and protect strands," says Lopez. F.J. Jimenez / Getty Images You know when you've got freshly-cut hair and you're oh so happy with your blunt fringe and how amazing it looks? But fast-forward a month or so, and what do you have? A strange, grown-out mess that is neither fringe nor cool middle-parting. This haircare challenge combined with the rush to get ready makes for some trying minutes (or sometimes even hours) in front of the mirror as you attempt to tame your mane. What's worse is if you've decided to grow out your hair from a pixie crop or a neat bob, knowing what lies ahead is months of awkward styles that you never asked for. It's enough to push anyone to the brink. However, it doesn't have to be that way. Help is at hand. By enlisting the advice of some of the beauty industry's top hairdressers, we've got the tricks and tips to sorting out your locks when it's in the dreaded "in-between" stage. Keep scrolling for some easy, expert-approved styling tips to try while growing out short hair. 01 of 15 Something as simple as changing your part can make all the difference. "This can hide or make a feature of any shorter layers. Ear tucks also work well to hide the width of your hair when it's in its mid-stages 'growing out'—you can try the TRESemmé Between Washes Smooth Renew Anti-Frizz Cream (\$6) to control frizz and for a sleek look that is super cool," says Aaron Carlo, TRESemmé UK hair ambassador. 02 of 15 "Accessories really are the best way to hide a cut that's growing out," says Adam Reed, celebrity stylist and co-founder of Percy & Reed. "Tucking hair out of the way, using a strong hold hairspray, or hiding it under a hairband will disguise 'in-between' layers or difficult to hide pieces of hair." We love Kitsch's Blush Ruched Clifton Headband (\$24). Hairdresser and UK Ambassador for L'Oréal Paris, Syd Hayes, also recommends accessories. "Accessories for your hair such as cool kirby grips (bobby pins) work really well. I'm also loving all of the braids that appeared at Coachella. Why not braid your hair with a plait that stands out making it a cool hair statement." 03 of 15 Adding some volume to your strands can also help make the transition process easier. You can also turn to hair styling products for your volume boost. Jennifer Matos, a stylist at Rita Hazan, recommends using Rita Hazan's Lifting Spray (\$26), which will help you achieve a great level of volume at the root. "Because it's so lightweight, it's less harsh on the scalp and root of the hair. This is especially helpful to grow out the hair for clients who often color or put a lot of heat on their hair," she explains. Alternatively, you can also use a clip-in hairpiece made from real hair to add the volume you're looking for. 04 of 15 If your hair is at varying lengths and seems as though it simply can't be tamed, a bit of hair gel will be your best friend. A slicked-back hairstyle will instantly smooth down short layers, a growing fringe, and flyaways while giving you a trendy "wet hair" look. Try using a small amount of Kenra Professional's Styling Gel 17 (\$16). 05 of 15 "You don't need to get your hair cut more than every 12 weeks if you're growing it out. But if you're worried about the condition, then make sure you use intense conditioners, and, if you're straightening your hair, then use thermal heat protectors," says celebrity hairdresser and George Northwood salon founder, George Northwood. "Hair that's longer is going to stay with you longer, so you need to protect it." Try Redken's Extra Mega Mask (\$30) from the brand's Extreme protection line. 06 of 15 "The boredom factor is why it's so hard and takes so long for people to grow out their hair. To avoid this, change your color," suggests Northwood. You can try something fun with a minimal commitment by using a temporary, wash-out hair dye, like Moroccanoil's Color Depositing Mask (\$28). "A bit of color can stave off the boredom." 07 of 15 Can't wait for your hair to reach your desired length? You don't have to. Hair extensions can not only give you instantly long strands, but they can also help blend awkward layers as they grow out. Luxy Hair's Halo Hair Extensions (\$279) are perfect for this, since you only need to master applying a simple piece. 08 of 15 It's important to experiment, particularly if you're growing out something like a fringe. "The time it usually takes to grow out a fringe depends on the individual, but think anything up to four months. The trick is to have some fun during the growth period by experimenting with styles and products (e.g. create a side parting for a side fringe, middle parting for a 'boho' look)," says Luke Hersheson, John Frieda UK creative director. Whenever you switch up your part, try a stronghold hairspray, like Oribe's Superfine Strong Hair Spray (\$42). If you have natural hair, you can also experiment with a braided protective hairstyle, which will protect your natural strands from environmental factors that could affect growth. 09 of 15 A pixie crop is perhaps one of the hardest cuts to grow out. But there is a great bit of advice to follow here. "Go for something a little more controversial in the grow-out stage—for example, a 'Bad Bob,' which creates an edgy look out of hair when it's going through a transitional stage," says Hersheson. To add a sleek touch to the look, he suggests using John Frieda's Secret Weapon Touch-up Crème (\$9). 10 of 15 "When growing out short hair, have regular haircuts but only have the nape and sides cut into, in order to remove 'bulk' but let the top layers keep growing out naturally. Have regular conditioning treatments to keep the hair in the best health possible as it grows," says Carlo. Try TRESemmé's Expert Selection Instant Recovery Mask (\$30). "If you've got a blunt bob, then it needs to be softer. You need to keep the length but move the weight. You need to slice through the hair to make it less wig-like," says Northwood. 11 of 15 Growing out and treating afro hair can be a whole different ballgame. Celebrity hairdresser Jamie Stevens explains that regular maintenance trims every eight weeks are a must along with treatments to encourage the strength, health, and curl within the hair. "Schedule frequent hydrating treatments and invest in heat protection sprays and creams if you are drying your hair. Products from Mizani are great—the Moisture Fusion Shampoo (\$24) and Mask (\$30) are fantastic as they leave the hair feeling hydrated," he says. 12 of 15 Like we mentioned, accessories will be your best friend when it comes to disguising varying lengths of hair as it grows, and hats are no exception. No matter what time of year, you can pop one on as a stylish way to grow out short hair. In the winter, rock a beanie for a cause like Love Your Melon's Navy Speckled Beanie (\$30), which donates 50 percent of net profits to nonprofit organizations leading the fight against pediatric cancer. 13 of 15 There's no denying a blowout looks stunning on just about any hair type, and it's also a great way to tidy out the appearance of short hair that's being grown out. That said, you want to keep heat-styling to a minimum to avoid excess damage and breakage. "Using a blow-dry cream, like Rita Hazan's Smoothing Crème (\$28), on damp hair before blow-drying to cut down time on blow-drys. You will achieve a longer, smoother blowout, especially in humid and hot weather," says Matos. "The blowout will last longer so you don't have to blowdry your hair as often, which is healthier for the hair." 14 of 15 Those growing out a fringe or face-framing layers are often stuck wondering what to do during that awkward in-between stage. The answer: barrettes. "Grips and barrettes are great for tucking away uncontrollable hair," says Reed. This '90s hair accessory has made a major comeback in 2020, making it a trendy and practical way to keep short strands out of your face. We love the Alex Beaded Hair Clip Set (\$26) from Anthropologie. 15 of 15 With heat damage as a prime suspect for shorter strands that won't grow due to breakage, embracing your natural hair texture whenever possible is one of our top tips for growing out short hair. If you have curly hair, Matos recommends using Rita Hazan's Curl Crème (\$28). "It's great for defining and hydrating curls. If you're not using as much heat on the hair, the hair is not breaking," she explains. Short hair can seem like a one-hit-wonder, but with a little imagination, there are many ways to style short hair, particularly when it comes to protective styling. Depending on your hair's length, you can try locks without any additional extensions or try shoulder-length styles that can last up to six weeks. Even if you're opting for a short length protective style, you want to think about your hair type, hair concerns, and hair goals before seeing a stylist or working on your hair at home. For example, if your hair is fine or your edges are tender, you'll want to discuss with your stylist what options will ensure you come out of your protective style with healthy hair. With this in mind, we searched the net for short styles that can be done at home or ideas you can take to your next hair appointment. We found everything from cropped Bantu knots to blue Ombré twists. Keep scrolling for 20 short protective styles that we hope inspire your next styling session. 01 of 20 Twist-outs are among the most popular protective styles, not to mention the most versatile. To keep your twists hydrated, try the LOC (leave-in, oil, cream) or LCO (leave-in, cream, oil) method to lock in the good stuff from your products. 02 of 20 I love a Bantu knot, and Whitney's cropped knots show off her beautiful face while protecting her coils. Bantu knots can act as a simple way to create waves in the hair, so to keep your options open, use a lightweight gel, like Dove's Amplified Textures Shine & Moisture Finishing Gel (\$7) for a soft, flexible hold. 03 of 20 Amanda Stenberg's braided bob has an element of surprise, thanks to the lavender face-framing highlights. If lavender isn't your color, don't be afraid to try an alternative to add a pop. 04 of 20 Twists are a go-to for most naturals, regardless of hair length. Amanda Stacy's juicy twists are easy to recreate and can be an effective way to combat breakage. 05 of 20 Loose ends on a braided bob give this style some texture and make for a beautiful short protective 'do any time of the year. 06 of 20 Hair color wax is one of our favorite products because you can try bright colors without damaging your hair. Since hair color wax rinses out easily, if you grow tired of your blue hair, you can rinse it away without taking out your twists. 07 of 20 Krissy Lewis is the mini braids and twists queen. Aside from helping keep hair moisturized, mini braids are easy to wash (or co-wash) without too much disruption. 08 of 20 Zazie Beetz's braids take me back to my childhood, but of course, she brings them full circle with the addition of a veiled hat. 09 of 20 We're loving the Erykah Badu vibes of this beaded hairstyle with bangs. 10 of 20 No matter the season, this orange bob will protect your curls and turn heads. You may have to get your stylist to custom make this color for you, but it will be worth the wait. 11 of 20 Faux locs can be heavy, especially when they're long. Try a bob length so you can still rock the style without the extra weight. 12 of 20 These large plaits offer up a great way to protect and stretch your coils at the same time. If you're concerned about unraveling ends, try adding poly-bands to your ends. These are a better choice than traditional rubber bands since they won't snag the hair and cause breakage. 13 of 20 Cold adorned mini twists are a stylish way to minimize manipulation that can cause breakage. If you find your ends getting dry, wet the ends and apply a little olive oil. 14 of 20 This beautiful updo can work for locs and minis. Be sure to keep your hair and scalp moisturized along the way. To keep my hair and scalp moisturized, I fill a continuous spray bottle with water and aloe and spray it liberally when my hair feels dry. 15 of 20 If you have a cropped natural cut, these mini Bantus are a great way to switch things up. You'll need a good pomade to keep those edges in place. I enjoy using Oyin's Handmade Burnt Sugar Pomade (\$14) as edge control because it keeps my 4c hair in place, and is made with a mix of hydrating butters and candellila wax. 16 of 20 If you can't tell, I am a sucker for a bob. What I love about this chin-length cut is how simple yet sleek it is. Take a cue from Lania and let your ends run free for an I-woke-up-like this look. 17 of 20 Cornrows are a protective style classic. Learning how to braid your own hair can take some practice, but once you get the gist of it, you'll be asking yourself why you didn't learn sooner. 18 of 20 The slim twists and the angled shape take this look up a notch. You may need to find a way to seal the ends so they don't unravel. 19 of 20 Andrea Thomas' cropped braids are easy to install on your own and offer a quick alternative to protect the hair while switching it up. 20 of 20 Headwraps are a great go-to protective style. Remember to wrap your hair in a silk or satin scarf first to shield your hair underneath.

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