

A Describing beauty

Your **appearance** is the way you look, and we sometimes use different words to talk about **beauty** in men and women.

WOMEN can be **attractive** or **good-looking** [nice to look at], and we often use **pretty** [attractive] to describe a girl. We use beautiful or **gorgeous** for women who are very attractive.

MEN can be attractive and good-looking, but also **handsome**. If men are very attractive, we can say they are gorgeous or very good-looking, but not usually beautiful.

Liam has become quite **handsome**.

Bella looks **gorgeous** in that dress.

Olivia was very **pretty** when she was younger.

They're a very **good-looking** couple.

Language help

The opposite of beautiful is **ugly**, but it is not very polite to describe someone as ugly; **ordinary** [not special or different] is more polite. It also isn't polite to say that someone is fat; **overweight** is more polite.

B Size

We can talk about a person's **height** [how tall or short they are] and their **weight** [how heavy they are], e.g. *I'm **roughly** [about; *syn* **approximately**] one metre eighty (tall), and I **weigh** just under eighty kilograms*. If someone is not tall or short, you can describe them as **medium height**. If a person is very similar to most other people in height and weight, you can say they are **average**.

A: How tall is Hannah?

A: Is Marco quite big?

B: **Medium height**, I'd say.

B: No, about **average**.

C Hair



blonde
(or **blond**)



fair



brown



dark



black



straight



wavy



curly

Common mistakes

Remember that 'hair' is uncountable, e.g. *She's got straight **hair***. (NOT *She's got straight **hairs***.)

Also: *She's got long black hair*. (NOT *She's got a long black hair*.)

D Talking about someone's appearance

A: **What does** Sophia's boyfriend **look like**? [Can you describe his appearance?]

B: He's blond, and quite good-looking.

A: Is he tall?

B: Er, **tallish** [quite tall], but he's got **broad** shoulders [wide; *opp* **narrow**]. He looks very **athletic** [strong, healthy and often good at sports]. I think he does a lot of sport.

A: Is he quite **smart** [clean, tidy and stylish]?

B: Yeah, he **dresses** quite **well** [the clothes he wears are quite nice].

Language help

We can use the suffix **-ish** at the end of some adjectives to mean 'quite', e.g. *She's got **longish** hair*, and at the end of some numbers to mean 'more or less', e.g. *He's **twentyish***.

Exercises

10.1 Complete the sentences.

- 1 She's got straight hair
- 2 Isabella is very good-
- 3 Beata's got blonde
- 4 Her brother's got very broad
- 5 That's a nice suit: Jack's very today.
- 6 I would say he was medium
- 7 Charlotte's hair is fair but her brother's is quite

10.2 Find six more pairs of words in the box. Why are they pairs?

attractive	height	average	good-looking	weight	narrow	roughly
tall	curly	approximately	medium	wavy	broad	weigh

Attractive and good-looking are similar in meaning.

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10.3 Complete the dialogues using words that are similar to the underlined words.

- 1 A: She's good-looking.
B: Yes, very attractive
- 2 A: María José looked beautiful last night.
B: Yes, absolutely
- 3 A: Her boyfriend's quite good-looking.
B: Yes, he is rather
- 4 A: Andreas looks very strong and healthy.
B: Yes, I think he's very
- 5 A: That little girl is attractive, isn't she?
B: Yes, she's very
- 6 A: Ethan's getting fat.
B: Yes, he is a bit
- 7 A: Did you think he was a bit ugly?
B: Yes, he was quite
- 8 A: Is she about 25?
B: Yes,
- 9 A: He's just above average height.
B: Yes, he is, isn't he?

10.4

Over to you

Answer the questions.

- 1 How tall are you?
 - 2 What's your hair like?
 - 3 Think about one of your best friends. What does he/she look like?
-
-

11 Describing character

A What are you like?

Describe your character¹
 Choose the number that describes you. For example, in the first line 1 = very positive, 3 = not very positive or negative, 5 = very negative.

	1	2	3	4	5	
I think I'm very positive ² .	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite a negative person.
I'm usually reliable ³ .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite unreliable .
I'm quite confident ⁴ .	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite shy ⁵ .
I'm hard-working ⁶ .	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite lazy .
I have a good sense of humour ⁷ .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	I'm usually quite serious ⁸ .
I'm usually quite patient ⁹ .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I'm quite impatient .

- ¹ what you are like as a person
- ² believe that good things will happen
- ³ can be trusted to do what people expect you to do
- ⁴ feeling sure about yourself and your abilities
- ⁵ not confident, especially about meeting or talking to new people
- ⁶ putting a lot of effort into your work and spending a lot of time on it
- ⁷ the ability to laugh and understand when something is funny
- ⁸ a serious person is quiet and doesn't laugh very much
- ⁹ able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when things take a lot of time

Common mistakes

- A: What's he like? (NOT How is he like?)
- B: He's very **nice**. (NOT He's like very nice.)

B Opposites

positive	negative
generous [happy to give more money or help than is usual]	mean
honest [an honest person tells the truth]	dishonest
clever, intelligent [able to learn and understand things quickly]	stupid
calm [relaxed and not worried or frightened]	nervous, anxious

Language help

We use **kind** to describe someone who wants to help people a lot, and **nice, friendly** or **pleasant** for someone who is happy to talk to people. The opposites are **unkind, unfriendly** and **unpleasant**.

C Describing a friend

“The first thing I would say about my best friend is that she's very **sensible**¹. I've never known Emilia to do anything **silly**², and I know I can always **trust**³ her. She's also very **creative**⁴; she makes things, and she's a very **talented**⁵ artist. I **wish**⁶ I had her **talent**.”

- ¹ practical; doesn't do stupid things
- ² not sensible, a bit stupid
- ³ be sure that she is honest
- ⁴ good at thinking of new ideas and using her imagination
- ⁵ has a natural ability
- ⁶ I would like to have her talent but I haven't got it.

Exercises

11.1 Find five pairs of opposites and put them into the correct columns.

nice mean sensible lazy calm generous
unpleasant hard-working silly nervous

positive	negative
<i>nice</i>	

11.2 Write the opposites using the correct prefix.

- 1 *un*kind 3pleasant 5honest
2friendly 4patient 6reliable

11.3 Describe the person in the sentences, in one word.

- My brother is in the office from 8 am to 6 pm every day. *hard-working*
- He has never bought me a drink in ten years.
- She often promises to do things but sometimes she forgets.
- My teacher explains things again and never gets angry.
- Emma finds it difficult to meet people and talk to strangers.
- Noah is practical and doesn't do anything stupid.
- Our teacher is nice, but he's quiet and he doesn't laugh a lot.
- Danya is very relaxed and doesn't seem to worry about things.
- My boss is really good at using his imagination to think of new ideas.
- Ava can play several musical instruments.

11.4 Complete the sentences.

- My sister can't wait for anything; she's so *impatient*.
- I get very before exams; I need to try and relax a bit more.
- I I could paint as well as your brother; he's so creative.
- Adeline hasn't done a thing since she's been here. Honestly, she's so
- I always have a laugh with my cousin – he's got a great sense of
- My younger sister is able to understand new ideas so quickly; she's very
- If Sarah says she'll do it, then she'll do it. I her completely.
- He'd like to be relaxed and confident, but it's just not part of his
- He failed his exams, but he isn't He just didn't do any work.
- Aurora helped me bake some cakes last week; she's very

11.5 Over to you

Complete the quiz on the opposite page for yourself. From all the words on the opposite page, which one would you most like to be, and which is the one you would hate to be? If possible, compare your answers with someone else.