



ENGLISH VOCABULARY

Lesson 3



DESCRIBING PEOPLE: APPEARANCE

- Hair, face, skin and complexion /kəm 'pleksən/



She's got straight hair and she's **thin-faced**/ she's got a **thin face**.



She's got long, wavy hair and she's **round-faced**/ she's got a **round face**.



She's got curly hair and is **black**.



He's got a crew-cut. He's **white**.



He's bald /bɔ:ld/ and has freckles.



He's got a beard and **moustache** /mʊs'tɑ:f/ and has a **chubby** face.



He's got receding hair and a few **wrinkles** /'rɪŋkəlz/.



He used to have black hair but now it's gone **grey**, almost **white**.



- What sort of person would you find attractive?
Blonde, fair, dark or ginger-haired / red-haired?
- She has such beautiful **auburn** hair. /'ɔ:bən/
[red-brown]
- **Fair** and **dark** can be used for **hair, complexion or skin**. Some people like getting **a tan** in summer [*exposing their skin to the sun so that it goes darker*], although the risks of getting **sunburnt** are well known.



HEIGHT AND BUILD

- **Fat** may sound impolite. Instead we can say that someone is rather **plump** or **stout**, or **a bit overweight**. If someone is **broad** and **solid**, we can say they are **stocky**. A person with good muscles can be **well-built** or **muscular**. [generally said about men]
- Someone who is very fat can be described as **obese** /əʊ'bi:s/, especially when talking in a medical context. Someone who is **thin** can be described as **slim** [positive] or **skinny** [negative]. If someone has a nice figure, they have **an attractive shape**. [generally said about women]



GENERAL APPEARANCE

- She's a very **smart** and **elegant** woman, always **well-dressed**; her husband is quite the opposite, very **scruffy** and **untidy-looking** / **messy-looking**.
- Chloe looked **stunning** in her red dress. [very attractive]
- He's very **good-looking**, but his friend's rather **unattractive**. [opp attractive]
- Her eyes are her best **feature**. [the most attractive part of her face]
- Do you think **beautiful** women are always attracted to **handsome** men? I don't. I think **personality** matters most.
- **First impressions** are always important. [your first reaction to someone]



- 1 I wish I could get a *tan* like yours but my skin just goes red in the sun.
- 2 My cousin used to have a lovely but she's put on weight in all the wrong places since she stopped taking much exercise.
- 3 Thomas's eyes are his best – they're so large and sparkly and such a deep brown.
- 4 Jess is in her thirties but she still has the same lovely fresh as her young daughter has.
- 5 Staff at the bank were told to dress smartly for work so they would always create a good on customers.
- 6 I'd call her rather than ginger-haired – her hair's dark brown with just a tinge of red in it.
- 7 George says that the round his eyes just show that he has smiled a lot in his life.
- 8 Even in jeans Alina manages to look
- 9 Carla looks beautiful in old clothes and without any make-up but when she's dressed up for an evening out she's absolutely



Answer these remarks with the opposite description.

1 A: I thought you said he was the short, chubby one.

B: *No, no, no, not at all, he's the tall, thin-faced one.*

2 A: Was that his brother, the one with wavy hair?

B: No, completely the opposite, his brother's

3 A: She's always quite well-dressed, so I've heard.

B: What! Who told you that? Every time I see her, she's

4 A: So Charlene's that rather plump, fair-haired woman, is she?

B: No, you're looking at the wrong one. Charlene's

5 A: So, tell us about the new boss; good-looking?

B: No, I'm afraid not; rather

6 A: I don't know why, but I expected the tour guide to be fiftyish or rather plump.

B: No, apparently she's only



WANTED! MISSING! Complete the gaps in these police posters with your own ideas.

WANTED FOR MURDER



Ian Prowse

White, height 6ft,

.....-faced,
..... hair,
..... skin

WANTED FOR ARMED ROBBERY



Sandra King

White, height 5ft 4,

..... hair,
..... build,
.....-faced

MISSING



Jasmin Kaur, Age 7,

Asian, height 4ft,

thin-.....
.....,
..... hair

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE



Jack 'Dagger' Flagstone

White, height 6ft,

....., with
..... and ;
..... build.



DESCRIBING PEOPLE: PERSONALITY

□ Intellectual ability:

lots of ability	intelligent bright clever sharp shrewd able gifted talented brainy (informal)
lacking ability	stupid foolish simple silly brainless daft dumb dim thick (the last five are predominantly informal words, and they can all be offensive)
clever, in a negative way, using brains to trick or deceive	cunning crafty sly



ATTITUDES TOWARDS LIFE

- Amal is **pessimistic** while Nia is **optimistic** – he always expects the worst to happen while she looks on the bright side.
- It is strange that one of the twins is so **extroverted** while the other is so **introverted** – Ben loves being the focus of attention while Jake prefers to be alone with his thoughts.
- I feel very **tense** (or **wound up / stressed out**) after a very busy day at work but, after a hot bath, I'll soon feel **relaxed**.
- Eva is very **sensible** – she'd never do anything stupid. In other words, she's very **practical** and **down-to-earth**.
- Roberto is very **sensitive** – he gets very **upset** (or **worked-up**), if he feels people are criticising him.



ATTITUDE TOWARDS OTHER PEOPLE

Enjoying others' company: **sociable** **gregarious***

Disagreeing with others: **quarrelsome** **argumentative**

Taking pleasure in others' pain: **cruel** **sadistic**

Relaxed in attitude to self and others: **easy-going** **even-tempered** **laid-back****

Not polite to others: **impolite** **rude** **ill-mannered** **discourteous***

Telling the truth to others: **honest** **trustworthy** **reliable** **sincere**

Unhappy if others have what you do not have yourself: **jealous** **envious**

* These words are much more common in written than in spoken English.

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ONE PERSON'S MEAT IS ANOTHER PERSON'S POISON

- Some characteristics can be either positive or negative depending on your point of view. The words in the right-hand column mean roughly the same as the words in the left-hand column except that they have negative rather than positive connotations.

positive associations	negative associations
determined	obstinate stubborn pig-headed
thrifty economical	stingy mean tight-fisted miserly*
self-assured confident	self-important arrogant full of yourself**
unconventional original	eccentric odd peculiar weird**
frank direct open	blunt abrupt brusque curt
broad-minded	unprincipled permissive
enquiring*	inquisitive nosy**
generous	extravagant
innocent	naive
ambitious	pushy**
assertive	aggressive bossy**



Match the words on the left with their opposites on the right.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 clever | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a introverted |
| 2 extroverted | <input type="checkbox"/> | b tight-fisted |
| 3 rude | <input type="checkbox"/> | c courteous |
| 4 cruel | <input type="checkbox"/> | d gregarious |
| 5 generous | <input type="checkbox"/> | e kind-hearted |
| 6 unsociable | <input type="checkbox"/> | f dim |

Do you think that the speaker likes or dislikes the people in these sentences? Reword each sentence to give the opposite impression (negative rather than positive or vice versa).

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Carmen's very thrifty. <i>Likes - Carmen's very stingy.</i> | 5 Nico's quite bossy. |
| 2 Molly's usually frank. | 6 I find Marcus self-important. |
| 3 Grace is quite broad-minded. | 7 Don't you think James is nosy? |
| 4 Sam can be aggressive. | 8 Freya is very original. |



Magazines often publish questionnaires which are supposed to analyse aspects of your personality. Look at the words below and match them to the corresponding question.

pessimistic
extravagant

argumentative
assertive

sensitive
inquisitive

sociable
reliable

- 1 If you arrange to meet at 7 pm, do you arrive at 7 pm? *reliable*
- 2 When you have a problem, do you think the worst will happen?
- 3 Do you find it easy to tell your boss if you feel he or she has treated you badly?
- 4 Do you always look out of the window if you hear a car draw up?
- 5 Do you often buy your friends presents for no particular reason?
- 6 Do you frequently disagree with what other people say?
- 7 Do you lie awake at night if someone has said something unkind to you?
- 8 Do you prefer to be in the company of other people?



□ Home task:

- 1) Write a description of each of these people, giving information about their hair and face, their height and build and general appearance:

1 you yourself

2 your best friend

3 a neighbour

4 your ideal of a handsome man / a beautiful woman

- 2) Choose two people who are important in your life. Describe them using adjectives in this unit and give reasons why you chose each adjective.

EXAMPLE *My brother is sociable because he loves being with other people.*

