



# ENGLISH VOCABULARY

## Lesson 3

# DESCRIBING PEOPLE: APPEARANCE

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



**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** /mus'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

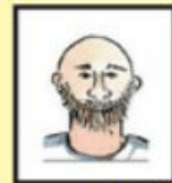
## **MISSING**



**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:

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



# 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:	<b>sociable</b>	<b>gregarious*</b>		
Disagreeing with others:	<b>quarrelsome</b>	<b>argumentative</b>		
Taking pleasure in others' pain:	<b>cruel</b>	<b>sadistic</b>		
Relaxed in attitude to self and others:	<b>easy-going</b>	<b>even-tempered</b>	<b>laid-back**</b>	
Not polite to others:	<b>impolite</b>	<b>rude</b>	<b>ill-mannered</b>	<b>discourteous*</b>
Telling the truth to others:	<b>honest</b>	<b>trustworthy</b>	<b>reliable</b>	<b>sincere</b>
Unhappy if others have what you do not have yourself:		<b>jealous</b>	<b>envious</b>	

\* 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	argumentative	sensitive	sociable
extravagant	assertive	inquisitive	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.*

