

Describing people

Lesson code: J18L-F2XB-9GU1-4

PRE-INTERMEDIATE

1 Adjectives for describing appearance

Find the meaning of the following adjectives in a dictionary.

Hair type: straight, curly, wavy, short, long

Hair colour: Blond, dark, Brown, Grey

Skin type: dark, tanned, pale, freckled

Body type: tall, short, slim, overweight, muscular, thin

Now look at the people below and complete the descriptions.



1. The girl in the left picture has got very straight/wavy blond/dark hair. She looks slim/overweight and her skin is quite pale/tanned.
2. The man in the middle looks slim/overweight . He has long/short, black/brown hair and His skin is quite pale/dark.
3. The woman on the right looks quite muscular/overweight . She has straight/curly blond/brown hair and her skin is rather pale/tanned.

Work in pairs. Take turns to describe your family members. Try to use qualifying adverbs such as rather, quite, a little, very, etc. For example:

"My sister is quite slim. She's got long dark hair and rather pale skin ..."

Describing appearance

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

2 Opposites

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

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. beautiful | a. short |
| 2. fat | b. thin |
| 3. strong | c. ugly |
| 4. old | d. weak |
| 5. tall | e. young |

Four of the words above are critical or negative in meaning. Which ones?

Match them to the more polite adjectives below.

slim overweight plain mature

3 Asking about appearance

Work in pairs. Think of a famous actor or actress, but don't tell your partner his/her name. Your partner must ask the questions below to find out who the person is. Change roles and repeat the exercise.

- Is he/she handsome/beautiful?
- What colour is his/her hair?
- Is he/she tall/short/overweight ...?
- Does he/she have curly/wavy/straight hair?
- Does he/she have tanned/pale/dark/spotty skin?

4 Changing your appearance

Match the sentences below to the pictures on the next page.

1. She is putting on make-up.
2. He is getting dressed.
3. She is brushing her hair.
4. He is shaving.
5. He is having a haircut.
6. He is combing his hair.

Describing appearance

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

1



2



3



4



5



6



Work in pairs. Tell your partner how often you change your appearance using the vocabulary from this exercise, for example:

I put on makeup every day.

I never put on makeup.



Character and behaviour

Lesson code: JQVA-E5PB-8GU6-F

PRE-INTERMEDIATE

1 Character traits

Study the following adjectives. Find their meaning in a dictionary and complete the sentences below.

friendly
generous

arrogant
honest

boring
rude

cheerful
shy

funny
smart

1. Joseph is very friendly. Everybody likes him!
2. My grandmother is very _____. Every time I see her, she gives me 100 dollars!
3. George is so _____. I always laugh when I spend time with him.
4. Darrel is very _____. He thinks he is better than everybody else.
5. Jack is very _____. He can learn a new language in only one month!
6. Steven is quite _____. When I listen to him, I want to sleep.
7. Akiko is very _____. She never lies.
8. Kate is really _____. She never says "please", "thank you" and "you're welcome".
9. Angela is a very _____ girl. She doesn't speak when there are a lot of people with her.
10. Pedros is a very _____ guy. He likes smiling and laughing.

Which of the adjectives are qualities? Which are flaws?

Work in pairs. Think about your friends or acquaintances. Tell your partner about their qualities and flaws using adverbs of frequency, for example:

Tony is usually friendly and generous, but sometimes he can be moody. But he is never boring.

2 Opposites

Complete the opposites with 'dis' or 'un':

1. friendly - un friendly
2. honest - _____ honest
3. funny - _____ funny

Now match the adjectives on the left with their opposites on the right:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. generous | a. confident |
| 2. boring | b. interesting |
| 3. shy | c. mean |
| 4. smart | d. miserable |
| 5. rude | e. polite |
| 6. cheerful | f. stupid |

Test your partner. Read an adjective and ask your partner to tell you its opposite:

Student A: *What's the opposite of 'mean'?*

Student B: *The opposite of mean is 'generous'.*

3 Describing behaviour

Some of the adjectives in this lesson can also describe a person's behaviour. Study the sentence below about John, a 40-year-old American tourist in Paris.

John is being stupid.

Normally, we do not use the present continuous of the verb 'be'. However, when we talk about somebody's behaviour, we can use the present continuous of 'be'. The meaning is:

John is behaving in a stupid way right now. (NOT: John is generally stupid.)

In pairs, look at what John said below. Describe how he is behaving using the present continuous of 'be' + adjectives from this lesson.

- "I learned French in a week. I'm so wonderful."
- "I can't help you. I'm not from France. Please go away!"
- "I hate this job. I do the same thing every day. I don't want to go back to work."
- "I'm 40 years old."
- "I look older, but I'm only 28 years old."
- "Thank you very much for your help."

Work in pairs. Take turns to select and read a sentence from below. Your partner should say how you are behaving using "You are being ..."

1. "You can stay at my place for a month, for free."
2. "I'm _____ years old."
3. "I don't like you. Go away."
4. "I'm the best person in the world."
5. "No, I don't want to lend you any money."
6. "Let's go to the casino. We can win a lot of money."
7. "Thank you for helping me with my homework. That was very nice of you."
8. "Hello, nice to meet you!"

4 Talking point

How do different nationalities behave?

Remember, when we talk about people's 'general behaviour', we say '*They are ...*', for example:

Italians are usually cheerful and friendly.