

7) Describing appearance

A Physical features



My little niece Keira is so **cute**. She's got **chubby cheeks**¹ and huge brown eyes.

My sister Jessica is a bit **skinny** and wears a lot of **make-up**.

Sophie is **gorgeous**, with a great **figure**, and always looks very **glamorous**.

One of my neighbours is **bald**², **overweight** and has a **hideous tattoo**³.

My gran's getting on for 85 and has quite a few **wrinkles**⁴ now.

GLOSSARY

cute	pretty and attractive, often used to describe babies, puppies, etc.	gorgeous <i>inf</i>	very beautiful and attractive <i>SYN stunning</i>
chubby	slightly fat, but in an attractive way	figure	the shape of a person's body
skinny <i>inf</i>	too thin (Slim and slender are 'thin' in an attractive way)	glamorous	appearing more exciting and attractive than ordinary people
make-up	cream, powder, etc. that you put on your face to make you look more attractive: <i>wear make-up</i>	overweight	rather fat
		hideous	very ugly
		be getting on for <i>sth</i>	be nearly a particular age, time or number: <i>It's getting on for</i> <i>midnight</i> .

1 Would you be **happy**, **unhappy** or **not sure** to be described in these ways?

bald chubby cute full of wrinkles glamorous gorgeous hideous overweight skinny slim stunning

HAPPY: _____ UNHAPPY: _____ NOT SURE: _____

2 Find six pairs of words in the box and explain the connection.

chubby	gorgeous	overweight	wrinkles	babies	wear
cute	skin	make-up	cheeks	stunning	fat

3 Complete the sentences.

- 1 My brother has now got a of a heart on his chest. I think it's horrible.
- 2 My mother's 50, but still has a great
- 3 Most babies seem to have a round face and chubby
- 4 I want people to think I'm , but not too skinny.
- 5 He's got a few now he's in his 70s, but I think they give his face character.
- 6 There's a picture of the two kittens asleep on a chair. They look very
- 7 My sister's boyfriends are usually quite ugly, but the new one is really
- 8 Film stars always look so , don't they? I'm sure they're different in real life.
- 9 My best friend Amelia is I wish I was that beautiful.
- 10 I don't much make-up these days.



B Clothes and appearance

DRESS FOR YOUR SHAPE

The **key to** dressing for your body shape is to **enhance** your best **features** and cleverly **conceal** the not so good ones. Here are a few **guidelines**:

- Wearing dark colours or **vertical stripes**¹ will create the illusion of being slimmer.
- For women, **high heels**² are flattering because they exaggerate the length of their legs.
- If you are pear-shaped (with narrow shoulders and **broad hips**³), jeans that sit below the **waist**⁴ are flattering, as they **draw attention to** the waistline and make your bottom look smaller.



GLOSSARY

key to sth	the thing that makes you able to understand or achieve sth	create an illusion (of sth)	make sth appear true, which in fact is false
enhance	increase or improve the quality, value or status of sth	flattering	making sb look more attractive OPP unflattering
feature	a part of sb's face or body	exaggerate	make sth seem bigger, better, worse or more important than it really is exaggeration n
conceal <i>formal</i> guidelines	hide sth	broad	wide: broad shoulders/hips OPP narrow (We use wide more to talk about distance and geographical areas: <i>The room was 4 metres wide.</i>)
vertical	OPP horizontal	draw (sb's) attention to sth	make sb notice sth

4 Underline the main stress on each word. Use the to help you.

conceal create enhance exaggerate exaggeration guidelines horizontal illusion vertical

5 Circle the correct answer.

- 1 If you **create** an illusion, you make something appear **true / false**.
- 2 Guidelines usually **stop** you **doing something / help you**.
- 3 Enhancing something is a **positive / negative** change.
- 4 Lines that go up and down are **horizontal / vertical**.
- 5 If you **exaggerate** something, you make it seem **more / less** important than it really is.
- 6 People came to the music festival from a **broad / wide** area.
- 7 If you wear something that is **flattering**, it makes you look **worse / better** than usual.
- 8 If you **conceal** something, others **can / can't** see it.

6 Complete the sentences.

- 1 The right clothes can show off your best , e.g. long legs or a slim waist.
- 2 I don't look good in jeans: my waist is quite small but I've got broad
- 3 Clothes with vertical make you look slimmer; high make you taller.
- 4 The to her success is talent, not good looks!
- 5 He wears a hat because he doesn't want to attention to the fact he's bald.
- 6 To say he's the best-looking man in the world is a bit of an
- 7 He's getting fat but he tries to it by wearing very loose jackets.
- 8 Those trousers are very : they make her look fat.
- 9 I've got shoulders, but quite a small I've never put on much weight.
- 10 I think it's useful when fashion experts give you on how to dress.

TEST YOURSELF