

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 inf	very beautiful and attractive SYN stunning
chubby	slightly fat, but in an attractive way	figure	the shape of a person's body
skinny inf	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: wear make-up	overweight	rather fat
		hideous	very ugly
		be getting on for sth	be nearly a particular age, time or number: <i>It's getting on for 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

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3 Complete the sentences.

- My brother has now got a of a heart on his chest. I think it's horrible.
- My mother's 50, but still has a great
- Most babies seem to have a round face and chubby
- I want people to think I'm, but not too skinny.
- He's got a few now he's in his 70s, but I think they give his face character.
- There's a picture of the two kittens asleep on a chair. They look very
- My sister's boyfriends are usually quite ugly, but the new one is really
- Film stars always look so, don't they? I'm sure they're different in real life.
- My best friend Amelia is I wish I was that beautiful.
- 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
feature	a part of sb's face or body	exaggerate	make sth seem bigger, better, worse or more important than it really is
conceal formal	hide sth	broad	exaggeration <i>n</i>
guidelines	information that can help you make a decision or form an opinion		wide: broad shoulders/hips OPP narrow
vertical	OPP horizontal	draw (sb's) attention to sth	(We use wide more to talk about distance and geographical areas: <i>The room was 4 metres wide.</i>)
			make sb notice sth

4 Underline the main stress on each word. Use the **APP** 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