10 Describing appearance

A Describing beauty

Your **appearance** is the way you look, and we sometimes use different words to talk about **beauty** in men and women.

WOMEN can be **attractive** or **good-looking** [nice to look at], and we often use **pretty** [attractive] to describe a girl. We use beautiful or **gorgeous** for women who are very attractive.

MEN can be attractive and good-looking, but also **handsome**. If men are very attractive, we can say they are gorgeous or very good-looking, but not usually beautiful.

Liam has become quite **handsome**.
Olivia was very **pretty** when she was younger.
Bella looks **gorgeous** in that dress.
They're a very **good-looking** couple.

Language help

The opposite of beautiful is **ugly**, but it is not very polite to describe someone as ugly; **ordinary** [not special or different] is more polite. It also isn't polite to say that someone is fat; **overweight** is more polite.

B Size

We can talk about a person's **height** [how tall or short they are] and their **weight** [how heavy they are], e.g. *I'm **roughly** [about; syn **approximately**] one metre eighty (tall), and I **weigh** just under eighty kilograms*. If someone is not tall or short, you can describe them as **medium height**. If a person is very similar to most other people in height and weight, you can say they are **average**.

A: How tall is Hannah?
B: **Medium height,** I'd say.
A: Is Marco quite big?
B: No, about **average**.

C Hair


blonde (or **blond**)


fair


brown


dark


black


straight


wavy


curly

Common mistakes

Remember that 'hair' is uncountable, e.g. She's got straight **hair**. (NOT She's got straight ~~hairs~~.)
Also: She's got long black hair. (NOT She's got ~~a~~ long black hair.)

D Talking about someone's appearance

A: **What does** Sophia's boyfriend **look like?** [Can you describe his appearance?]
B: He's blond, and quite good-looking.
A: Is he tall?
B: Er, **tallish** [quite tall], but he's got **broad** shoulders [wide; *opp* **narrow**]. He looks very **athletic** [strong, healthy and often good at sports]. I think he does a lot of sport.
A: Is he quite **smart** [clean, tidy and stylish]?
B: Yeah, he **dresses** quite **well** [the clothes he wears are quite nice].

Language help

We can use the suffix **-ish** at the end of some adjectives to mean 'quite', e.g. *She's got **longish** hair*, and at the end of some numbers to mean 'more or less', e.g. *He's **twentyish***.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

10.1 **Complete the sentences.**

1 She's got straight *hair*.
2 Isabella is very good-.....
3 Beata's got blonde .....
4 Her brother's got very broad .....
5 That's a nice suit: Jack's very ..... today.
6 I would say he was medium .....
7 Charlotte's hair is fair but her brother's is quite .....

10.2 **Find six more pairs of words in the box. Why are they pairs?**

~~attractive~~	height	average	~~good-looking~~	weight	narrow	roughly
tall	curly	approximately	medium	wavy	broad	weigh

Attractive and good- looking are similar in meaning.

10.3 **Complete the dialogues using words that are similar to the underlined words.**

1 A: She's good-looking.
B: Yes, very *attractive*.
2 A: María José looked beautiful last night.
B: Yes, absolutely .....
3 A: Her boyfriend's quite good-looking.
B: Yes, he is rather .....
4 A: Andreas looks very strong and healthy.
B: Yes, I think he's very .....
5 A: That little girl is attractive, isn't she?
B: Yes, she's very .....
6 A: Ethan's getting fat.
B: Yes, he is a bit .....
7 A: Did you think he was a bit ugly?
B: Yes, he was quite .....
8 A: Is she about 25?
B: Yes, ...
9 A: He's just above average height.
B: Yes, he is ....., isn't he?

10.4 **Over to you**

Answer the questions.

1 How tall are you? .....
2 What's your hair like? .....
3 Think about one of your best friends. What does he/she look like? .....
.....
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

11 Describing character

A What are you like?

Describe your character[1]

Choose the number that describes you. For example, in the first line 1 = very positive, 3 = not very positive or negative, 5 = very negative.

1	2	3	4	5	
I think I'm very **positive**[2].	●	○	○	○	○	I'm quite a **negative** person.
I'm usually **reliable**[3].	○	○	○	●	○	I'm quite **unreliable**.
I'm quite **confident**[4].	○	●	○	○	○	I'm quite **shy**[5].
I'm **hard-working**[6].	●	○	○	○	○	I'm quite **lazy**.
I have a good **sense of humour**[7].	○	○	○	○	●	I'm usually quite **serious**[8].
I'm usually quite **patient**[9].	○	○	●	○	○	I'm quite **impatient**.
	1	2	3	4	5	



[1] what you are like as a person
[2] believe that good things will happen
[3] can be trusted to do what people expect you to do
[4] feeling sure about yourself and your abilities
[5] not confident, especially about meeting or talking to new people
[6] putting a lot of effort into your work and spending a lot of time on it
[7] the ability to laugh and understand when something is funny
[8] a serious person is quiet and doesn't laugh very much
[9] able to stay calm and not get angry, especially when things take a lot of time

Common mistakes

A: What's he like? (NOT ~~How~~ is he like?)
B: He's very **nice**. (NOT He's ~~like~~ very nice.)

B Opposites

positive	negative
generous [happy to give more money or help than is usual]	**mean**
honest [an honest person tells the truth]	**dishonest**
clever, intelligent [able to learn and understand things quickly]	**stupid**
calm [relaxed and not worried or frightened]	**nervous, anxious**

Language help

We use **kind** to describe someone who wants to help people a lot, and **nice, friendly** or **pleasant** for someone who is happy to talk to people. The opposites are **unkind, unfriendly** and **unpleasant**.

C Describing a friend

"The first thing I would say about my best friend is that she's very **sensible**[1]. I've never known Emilia to do anything **silly**[2], and I know I can always **trust**[3] her. She's also very **creative**[4]; she makes things, and she's a very **talented**[5] artist. I **wish**[6] I had her **talent**."

[1] practical; doesn't do stupid things
[2] not sensible, a bit stupid
[3] be sure that she is honest
[4] good at thinking of new ideas and using her imagination
[5] has a natural ability
[6] I would like to have her talent but I haven't got it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

11.1 **Find five pairs of opposites and put them into the correct columns.**

~~nice~~ mean sensible lazy calm generous
unpleasant hard-working silly nervous

positive	negative
nice	

11.2 **Write the opposites using the correct prefix.**

1 *un*kind
2 .....friendly
3 .....pleasant
4 .....patient
5 .....honest
6 .....reliable

11.3 **Describe the person in the sentences, in one word.**

1 My brother is in the office from 8 am to 6 pm every day. *hard-working*
2 He has never bought me a drink in ten years. .....
3 She often promises to do things but sometimes she forgets. .....
4 My teacher explains things again and never gets angry. .....
5 Emma finds it difficult to meet people and talk to strangers. .....
6 Noah is practical and doesn't do anything stupid. .....
7 Our teacher is nice, but he's quiet and he doesn't laugh a lot. .....
8 Danya is very relaxed and doesn't seem to worry about things. .....
9 My boss is really good at using his imagination to think of new ideas. .....
10 Ava can play several musical instruments. .....

11.4 **Complete the sentences.**

1 My sister can't wait for anything; she's so *impatient*.
2 I get very ..... before exams; I need to try and relax a bit more.
3 I ..... I could paint as well as your brother; he's so creative.
4 Adeline hasn't done a thing since she's been here. Honestly, she's so .....
5 I always have a laugh with my cousin – he's got a great sense of .....
6 My younger sister is able to understand new ideas so quickly; she's very.....
7 If Sarah says she'll do it, then she'll do it. I ..... her completely.
8 He'd like to be relaxed and confident, but it's just not part of his .....
9 He failed his exams, but he isn't ..... . He just didn't do any work.
10 Aurora helped me bake some cakes last week; she's very .....

11.5 **Over to you**

Complete the quiz on the opposite page for yourself. From all the words on the opposite page, which one would you most like to be, and which is the one you would hate to be? If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12 Feelings

A How do you feel?

Language help

We use **emotion** and **feeling(s)** for something which someone feels strongly about, e.g. love, hate or anger. **Emotions** are part of our character, e.g. *Timo is a very **emotional** person.* [shows his feelings easily] **Feeling** is often plural, e.g. *She doesn't like talking about her **feelings**.*

I'm very **proud**[1] **of** my son's success, but I'm a bit **disappointed**[2] that the local paper hasn't shown more interest in the story.

[1] feeling good because you (or someone you know) has done something well
[2] unhappy because someone or something was not as good as you hoped.

The politicians seem **confused**[3] about what to do, so I'm not **hopeful**[4] that things will improve.

[3] not able to think clearly or understand something
[4] feeling positive about a future situation

We were **curious**[5] to see what all the noise was about, but I felt **anxious**[6] when I saw how angry the men were, and really **scared**[7] when they started coming towards us.

[5] wanting to know or learn about something
[6] worried
[7] afraid; *syn* **frightened**

I think Harry ended the relationship because his girlfriend was getting **jealous**[8], but now he's quite **upset**[9].

[8] unhappy and angry because someone you love seems too interested in another person
[9] unhappy because something unpleasant has happened

Language help

adjective	noun	adjective	noun
proud	**pride**	disappointed	**disappointment**
jealous	**jealousy**	confused	**confusion**
curious	**curiosity**	anxious	**anxiety**

B The effect of the weather on our feelings

Why do people say they feel more **cheerful** [happy] when the sun shines, and **miserable** [unhappy] when it's raining? Why do some people suffer from SAD (seasonal affective disorder), which makes them feel **depressed** [unhappy, often for a long time, and without hope for the future] during long dark winters? Can the weather really affect our **mood** [the way we feel at a particular time], or is it just in our imaginations?

C The effect of colour on our emotions



[1] wanting to be busy and doing a lot of things
[2] being angry
[3] looking after someone, especially someone young or old
[4] feelings of worry caused by difficult situations such as problems at work
[5] good at thinking of new ideas or using our imagination

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

12.1 **Cover the opposite page. Complete the tables.**

adjective	noun
angry	*anger*
jealous	
confused	
	pride

adjective	noun
disappointed	
	curiosity
anxious	
	emotion

12.2 **Find the best sentence ending on the right for each of the sentence beginnings on the left.**

1 He was very anxious when [c]
2 He was very jealous when [ ]
3 He was very scared when [ ]
4 He was very proud when [ ]
5 He was very upset when [ ]
6 He was very miserable when [ ]

a he heard his aunt had died.
b his father appeared on TV with the Prime Minister.
c his 14-year-old daughter didn't get home until 2 am.
d he saw the man coming towards him with a knife.
e he was ill.
f his best friend went out with the girl he really liked.

12.3 **Match the words and faces.**

anxious *1* scared ..... cheerful ..... upset ..... confused ..... depressed .....

1 2 3 4 5 6



12.4 **Complete the sentences.**

1 My aunt had to *care* for her elderly mother for years.
2 I can't tell whether Mia is happy or not; she never shows her ..... .
3 I'm much more ..... in the mornings. By the afternoon I feel tired.
4 Weather has a big ..... on the way I feel.
5 He's been under a lot of ..... recently because of the amount of work he has to do.
6 Oliver's cheerful one minute and miserable the next; his ..... changes all the time.
7 It's been a depressing month, but I'm ..... things will get better next month.
8 I don't like walking home in the dark. I get very ..... .

12.5 **Over to you**

Answer the questions. If possible, compare your answers with someone else.

1 Does colour or the weather have an effect on your emotions? How?

2 Do you ever suffer from stress? Why?

3 Does your mood change a lot from day to day? Why?

4 Do you feel more energetic at certain times of the day? Why?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

13 Family and friends

A Relatives*

RELATIVES

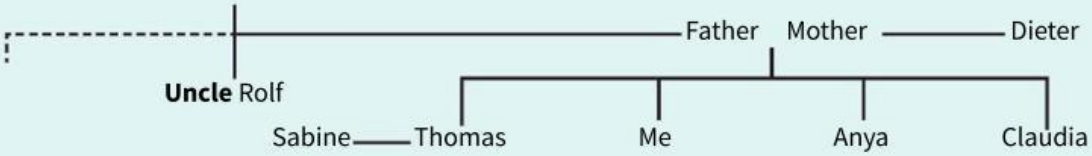


My father died when I was nine, and so my mother was a **widow**[1] with four young children. She **remarried** five years later, so now I have a **stepfather**. As he is not my real father, I call him by his first name, which is Dieter. I've got an **elder**[2] brother called Thomas and two younger sisters, Anya and Claudia, who are **twins**[3]. We're a **close family**[4].

My mother is an **only child**[5], but I've got two uncles on my father's side. One is married with two children, and the other is married with three children, so **altogether** I have five **cousins**. I **get on well with**[6] Uncle Rolf, and he always tells me I'm his favourite **nephew**. Of his **nieces**, I think he likes Anya best.

Recently my brother Thomas **got married**. His wife's name is Sabine, so I now have a **sister-in-law**[7] as well.

* members of your family; *syn* **relations**
[1] a woman whose husband has died
[2] older
[3] two children born to one mother at the same time
[4] a family who like each other and stay together a lot
[5] without brothers or sisters
[6] have a good relationship with
[7] (also **mother/brother/son-in-law,** etc.)



Common mistakes

It's more common and more natural to say '**Thomas's** wife' (NOT ~~the wife of Thomas~~) or **'Anna's** younger sister' (NOT the ~~younger sister of Anna~~).

B Friends

FRIENDS

My **best friend** is Florian, an **old** school **friend**[1]. We **got to know each other**[2] when we were in the same class at school. We've been **mates**[3] **ever since**[4], and our **friendship** is very important to both of us. He spends a lot of time with my family, and his **current**[5] girlfriend is actually one of Thomas's **ex**-girlfriends. But we all get on really well.



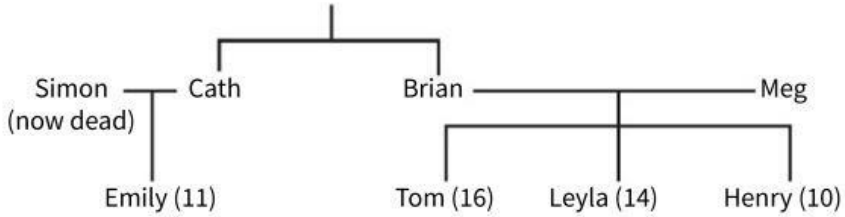
Language help

We use the prefix **ex-** for a relationship we had in the past but do not have now, e.g. *The children stay with my **ex-** husband at the weekend; I saw an **ex-** girlfriend of mine yesterday.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

13.1 **Look at the family tree, then complete the sentences below.**



1 Simon died two years ago, so Cath is a *widow*.
2 Leyla is Cath's ..... .
3 Tom is Cath's ..... .
4 Cath is Meg's ..... .
5 Simon was Brian's ..... .
6 Tom is Leyla's ..... brother.
7 Emily is Leyla's ..... .
8 Emily is an ..... child.

13.2 **Which words are being defined?**

1 Your *current* ..... boyfriend is the one that you have now.
2 ..... means get married again.
3 ..... are all the members of your family.
4 Your ..... friend is the one you like more than any other.
5 An ..... friend is someone you have known for a long time.
6 ..... are two children born to one mother at the same time.
7 ..... is an informal word for a friend.
8 ..... is the noun when two people are friends.
9 Your ..... is the man who is married to your mother but is not your father.

13.3 **Complete the text.**

"I was still going out with James when I met my husband, Ben. We [1] *got to know* ..... each other because we went to the same gym twice a week. We went out with each other for about 18 months, and we got [2] ..... three years ago, so [3] ..... we've been a couple for almost five years. We've continued to go to the gym ever [4] ..... we got married, and I still quite often see James when we're there. It's nice if you can still [5] ..... with an [6] .....-boyfriend or -girlfriend."

13.4 **Over to you**

Answer the questions for you, then, if possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

1 Are you an only child? If not, do you have elder brothers or sisters? .....
2 Do you get on well with other members of your family? .....
3 Are you a close family? .....
4 Who was the last person in your family to get married? When? .....
5 Who's your best friend? .....
6 How long have you known him/her? .....
7 How did you get to know each other? .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

14 Growing up

A Ages and stages in the UK



Age	Stage
0	**birth** [the moment a baby is born]
Up to 12 months	a baby
12 months – 3 years old	a **toddler**
3–12 years old	a child: this period is your **childhood**
13–18 approximately	a **teenager:** during this period you are **in your teens**
18+	an **adult**
40+ approximately	people are **middle-aged** [in the middle of their lives]
60 or 65	**retirement** [when people stop work; they are **retired**]
80+	old age (we usually describe people as **elderly**)

B Approximate ages

I'm **in my early twenties** [21–23].
My parents are **in their mid-fifties** [54–56].
My grandmother is **in her late seventies** [77–79].
My grandfather is **nearly/almost eighty** [he's probably 79].
My English teacher's **approximately/roughly** thirty.
[about 30 / more or less 30]

Common mistakes

We can say, **he's 30** or **he's 30 years old**. (NOT he ~~has~~ 30 or he's 30 ~~years~~)
Also: a **30-year-old man** (NOT a 30-~~years~~-old man)

C Past and present

PAST AND PRESENT

My grandmother's name was Mary. She's **dead**[1] now. She died about ten years ago when I was in my teens, but I remember her well. She was **brought up**[2] on a farm in Wales, and her parents were very **strict:** as a teenager, they didn't **allow**[3] her to listen to the radio or go to parties in the village. **In the end**[4], she decided to leave home and get a job in Cardiff. **At first**[5] it wasn't easy, but she **managed**[6] to find work, and she also met the man who became her husband: my grandfather. My mother was born four years later. She had a very different childhood. She grew up in the city, she **was allowed to** go to parties, and when she was in her teens, her parents **let**[7] her **stay out late**[8]. My mum is the same with me.



[1] not living; *opp* **alive**
[2] looked after until you are an adult
[3] give permission
[4] finally, after a lot of time or thought
[5] at the beginning
[6] was able (but it was difficult)
[7] allowed
[8] not go home until late

Language help

Let and **allow** have the same meaning. **Let** is slightly more informal, and **allow** is often used in the passive.
My dad ***let me drive*** *his car. I* ***was allowed to drive*** *my dad's car.*
You're not allowed to *smoke in that room.* (NOT ~~It's not allowed to~~ smoke in that room.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

14.1 Complete the sentences.

1 Isabella is only six months old – she's still *a baby*.
2 Louis was 22 a few months ago, so he's in his .....
3 Amelia is 35, so she's in her .....
4 Abigail will be 13 this year, so she'll soon be a .....
5 William is 53 and his wife is 47, so they're both .....
6 Joan is 80 this year, so she is quite .....
7 Michael was a bus driver for 40 years but he's now .....
8 Leon is 18 this year, so legally he becomes .....
9 The boys are 14 and 16, so they're both in their .....
10 Holly is just over a year old and she's starting to walk, so she's a ..... now.

14.2 Are the sentences true or false about Mary's life on the opposite page? If a sentence is false, change it to make it true.

1 Mary was brought up in the city. *False. Mary was brought up on a farm.*
2 She grew up in Wales. .....
3 Her parents let her do what she wanted. .....
4 She wasn't allowed to listen to the radio. .....
5 Life was easy when she went to Cardiff. .....
6 She couldn't get a job in Cardiff. .....

14.3 Rewrite the sentences without using the underlined words and phrases. Keep a similar meaning.

1 My parents <u>are dead</u> now. — My parents *aren't alive now*.
2 It was hard but <u>finally</u> I did it. — It was hard but .....
3 She's <u>approximately</u> my age. — She's .....
4 They're <u>almost</u> thirty now. — They're .....
5 <u>I had to do what</u> my parents <u>wanted</u>. — My parents were .....
6 My parents <u>let me</u> stay up and watch TV. — I was .....
7 My mum <u>looked after me</u> in Scotland. — I was .....
8 I <u>was able</u> to pass my exams <u>but it wasn't easy</u>. — I .....
9 I <u>didn't go home until</u> late. — I .....
10 <u>I was allowed to</u> wear what I liked. — My parents .....
11 I was happy <u>as a child</u>. — I had a happy .....
12 My grandparents <u>don't work any more</u>. — My grandparents are .....

14.4 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, ask a friend and write their answers.

1 Where were you brought up? .....

2 What do you particularly remember about your childhood? .....

.....

.....

.....

3 Were your parents strict? What weren't you allowed to do when you were a child? .....

.....

.....

.....

4 How late were you allowed to stay out when you were a teenager? .....

.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS