

9.1 Real beauty?

Vocabulary describing physical appearance

1 Complete the descriptions of three famous scientists with words from the box. There are four words you do not need.

bald curly dyed eyelashes face forehead fringe
jaw moustache spiky stubble

Great Scientists in the National Portrait Gallery in London

Have you ever wondered what famous people from history really looked like? Well, take a walk around London's National Portrait Gallery and you'll get to meet all of Britain's greats.

On my last visit, I saw Godfrey Kneller's 1702 portrait of **Isaac Newton**, the man who discovered the law of gravity. He had a long ¹ *face*, a large ² _____ and a very large ³ _____, which is not surprising when you consider how brilliant the brain behind that part of his body was.

I also saw Thomas Phillips' 1842 portrait of **Michael Faraday**, the scientist who discovered how to use electricity. Like Newton, he had very ⁴ _____ hair, and he was clean-shaven, so he didn't have any ⁵ _____ on his chin. In contrast, **Ernest Rutherford**, the man who first split the atom in 1917, had the most wonderful ⁶ _____. It was so large you couldn't see the top of his mouth! And his hair was brushed to one side, perhaps to hide the fact that he was going ⁷ _____.



2 Match the sentence halves.

1 Terry is an extremely well-c
2 Pedro has been clean-—
3 Amy is a little bit overweight, —
4 Luc is middle-—
5 Laila has shoulder-—

a so she's about to start a diet.
b length hair, which she wears in a ponytail.
c built man who goes to the gym every day.
d shaven ever since he got rid of his beard.
e aged but still wears tight jeans.

3 Choose the correct adjectives to complete the descriptions made to a police artist.

1 The thief had dyed, blonde hair and amazing, *long* / *slim* / *round* eyelashes.
2 The burglar wasn't fat at all. She was tall and *thick* / *slim* / *double* and she looked quite young, *in her twenty* / *in her twenties* / *in twenties*, I think.
3 The person I saw had a *spiky* / *dyed* / *round* face, shaped like the full moon, and a *double* / *slim* / *bald* chin. He was fat, and not in *round* / *good* / *large* shape at all.
4 He looked very unusual. He had a *round* / *large* / *double* jaw which stuck out from his face, and *thick* / *spiky* / *slim* eyebrows, which he really needed to cut with a pair of scissors.
5 She was an *elder* / *elderly* / *middle-aged* lady – over seventy, I'd say – and she wasn't exactly fat, but she was a *little* *thick* / *overweight* / *well-built*.

Grammar comparison

4 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

as bit isn't less most more much than

- 1 Tom's a lot more hard-working than I thought he was.
- 2 Amelia is slimmer than both her sisters.
- 3 Jaime is as strong as he looks.
- 4 Oleg is more cleverer than the rest of us.
- 5 Unfortunately, I'm far less talented than my older brother.
- 6 Penny's hair is as blonde as mine.
- 7 Amir's a bit more independent now.
- 8 Gabriel is the most fascinating man I know.

5 Complete the sentences with the correct comparative or superlative form of the words in brackets.

- 1 Although much slimmer (slim) now than he was, Mauricio is still on a diet.
- 2 Hollywood actor George Clooney seems to be regularly voted the most attractive (attractive) man in the world.
- 3 Tonya is a lot more (interested) in painting than her brother. She loves art.
- 4 My hair isn't any curlier (curly) than Jo's.
- 5 Ivan is underweight, but Sergei is even thinner (thin). He really needs to eat more.
- 6 Eduardo is the vainest (vain) man I know! He's always looking in the mirror.

6 Put the words in order to make comparative or superlative sentences.

- 1 I thought / was / less / would be / supportive / a lot / she / Maria / than .
Maria was a lot less supportive than I thought she would be.
- 2 I know / is / the / insecure / Luke / person / most .
Luke is the most insecure person.
- 3 his brother, / more / Mohsen / than / confident / is / Kamal / far .
Mohsen is more confident than his brother.
- 4 than / used / much / My hair / now / shorter / it is / to be .
My hair is shorter than it used to be.
- 5 valuable / in / most / is / the museum / This / the / painting .
This is the most valuable painting in the museum.

7 Complete the text with the comparative or superlative form of the words in brackets.



Are men vain?

OK, it's true. I am vain. I'm a 35-year-old man, but most people think I'm ¹ much older (much/old), and I'll do anything to look ² as young as (as/young) I once did. My wife is ³ far more worried (far/worried) I am about the ageing process. She doesn't seem concerned at all, in fact. That's probably why she was ⁴ surprised even (even/surprised) I expected when I came home last month with a new, smooth forehead. 'Have you had Botox?' she asked, her mouth open ⁵ as wide as (as/wide) the Channel Tunnel. I had to say yes. 'Having Botox injections is ⁶ unusual no (no/unusual) getting your hair cut,' I argued. 'And it makes me feel ⁷ lot better about (lot/good) about myself.' She just smiled. It's impossible to argue with someone ⁸ as vain as (as/vain) me. And I'm not alone. Did you know that in the UK, the cosmetics market for men is growing twice ⁹ as fast as (as/fast) the women's market? Worldwide, the market is worth about £20 billion, and that's why for cosmetics companies, it's by far ¹⁰ the most exciting (exciting) time ever to produce new men's products. Watch out! A new age of male vanity has begun.

I can ...

describe appearances.
make comparisons.

Very well Quite well More practice

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