

# 7 Describing appearance

## A Physical features



My little niece Keira is so **cute**. She's got **chubby cheeks**<sup>1</sup> 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**<sup>2</sup>, **overweight** and has a **hideous tattoo**<sup>3</sup>.  
 My gran's **getting on** for 85 and has quite a few **wrinkles**<sup>4</sup> now.

### GLOSSARY

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

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



### GLOSSARY

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