

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**.

Bella looks **gorgeous** in that dress.

Olivia was very **pretty** when she was younger.

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?

A: Is Marco quite big?

B: **Medium height**, I'd say.

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***.

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.

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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?
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