Describing people: appearance

Hair, face, skin and complexion /kəm'plek [ən/



and she's thin-faced/ she's got a thin face.



She's got straight hair She's got long, wavy hair She's got curly hair and she's round-faced/ she's got a round face.



and is **black**.



He's got a crew-cut. He's white.



He's bald /boxld/ and has freckles.



He's got a beard and moustache /mus'tax [/ and has a **chubby** face.



He's got receding hair and a few wrinkles /'rɪŋkəlz/.



He used to have black hair but now it's gone grey, almost white.

What sort of person would you find attractive? Blonde, fair, dark or ginger-haired / red-haired? She has such beautiful **auburn** hair. /'aɪbən/ [red-brown]

Fair and dark can be used for hair, complexion or skin. Some people like getting a tan in summer [exposing their skin to the sun so that it goes darker], although the risks of getting **sunburnt** are well known.

В **Height and build**

Fat may sound impolite. Instead we can say that someone is rather plump or stout, or a bit overweight. If someone is broad and solid, we can say they are stocky. A person with good muscles can be well-built or muscular. [generally said about men] Someone who is very fat can be described as **obese** /əu'biːs/, especially when talking in a medical context.

Someone who is thin can be described as slim [positive] or skinny [negative]. If someone has a nice **figure**, they have an attractive shape. [generally said about women]

General appearance

She's a very **smart** and **elegant** woman, always **well-dressed**; her husband is quite the opposite, very scruffy and untidy-looking / messy-looking.

Chloe looked **stunning** in her red dress. [very attractive]

He's very **good-looking**, but his friend's rather **unattractive**. [opp attractive]

Her eyes are her best **feature**. [the most attractive part of her face]

Do you think **beautiful** women are always attracted to **handsome** men? I don't. I think personality matters most.

First impressions are always important.

[your first reaction to someone]

Language help

The suffix **-ish** is useful for describing people (see <u>Unit 70</u>). She's **tallish**. He has **brownish** hair. He must be thirtyish / in his thirties.

Exercises

7.2

7.1 Choose a word from the opposite page to complete these sentences.

1	I wish I could get a <u>"""</u> like yours but my skin just goes red in the sun.
	My cousin used to have a lovelybut she's put on weight in all the wrong places since
	she stopped taking much exercise.
	Thomas's eyes are his best – they're so large and sparkly and such a deep brown.
	Jess is in her thirties but she still has the same lovely fresh as her young daughter has.
5	Staff at the bank were told to dress smartly for work so they would always create a
	goodon customers.
6	I'd call herrather than ginger-haired – her hair's dark brown with just a tinge of red in it.
7	George says that the round his eyes just show that he has smiled a lot in his life.
8	Even in jeans Alina manages to look
	Carla looks beautiful in old clothes and without any make-up but when she's dressed up for an evening out she's absolutely
Ar	nswer these remarks with the opposite description.
1	A: I thought you said he was the short, chubby one.
	B: No, no, not at all, he's the tall, thin-faced one.
2	A: Was that his brother, the one with wavy hair?
	B: No, completely the opposite, his brother's
3	A: She's always quite well-dressed, so I've heard.
	B: What! Who told you that? Every time I see her, she's

B: No, you're looking at the wrong one. Charlene's

B: No, apparently she's only

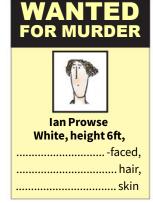
7.3 WANTED! MISSING! Complete the gaps in these police posters with your own ideas.

6 A: I don't know why, but I expected the tour guide to be fiftyish or rather plump.

4 A: So Charlene's that rather plump, fair-haired woman, is she?

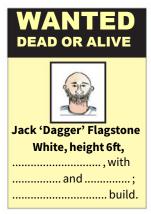
B: No, I'm afraid not; rather _____

5 A: So, tell us about the new boss; good-looking?









7.4 Over to you

Write a description of each of these people, giving information about their hair and face, their height and build and general appearance:

- 1 you yourself
- 2 your best friend
- 3 a neighbour
- 4 your ideal of a handsome man / a beautiful woman