

# Shaw Academy

## LESSON 4 NOTES

[English for Beginners]



# Descriptions

## Describing a Person

### Ages

The correct way to speak of someone's age is as follows:

***"She is 26 years old."***

However, in spoken English we rarely say this full sentence. Instead we shorten it down.

***"He is 26."*** or ***"He is in his twenties."***

We can say this for all age brackets:

***20-29 = twenties***

***30-39 = thirties***

***40-49 = forties***

***50-59 = fifties***

***60-69 = sixties***

***70-79 = seventies***

***\*11-19 = teens***

Although we can say: ***"She is in her teens."***

It is far more common to say: ***"She is a teenager."***

### Eye Colour

Eye colour can be separated into 3 different categories.

- Blue
- Green
- Brown / Hazel

***"She has beautiful green eyes."***

***"Dark skinned people often have brown eyes."***

## Hair Colour

Hair colour can be separated into 3 different categories.

- Black
- Red / Ginger
- Blonde
- Brown / Hazel
- Grey

*"She has jet black hair."*

*"When he was young he had bright blonde hair."*

## Characteristics / Qualities

Friendly or Rude

Tall or Short

Nice or Mean

Pretty or Ugly

Thin or Fat

Loud or Quiet

Outgoing or Shy

Fun or Boring

Clever or Stupid

*"My best friend Gavin is 26. He has blue eyes and black hair. He wears glasses which make him look clever, but he's not. He is tall and a lot of fun."*

## Describing your House / Apartment / Flat

### Is it...?

Modern or Old

Big or Small

Spacious or Cosy

One-story or Two-story

### What about the location?

*"It's in a great location."*

*"It's near the train station and right on the bus route."*

*"It is beside the park so the kids can play there."*

*"It is in the bad part of town."*

*"My area is very **safe / dangerous**."*

*"My flat is on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of a lovely building."*

## '-ed' and '-ing' Adjectives

Not every word ending in '-ed' or '-ing' is a verb.

Few, but common, adjectives end like this.

### '-ed' adjectives

Adjectives that end in -ed are used to describe how people feel:

*"He was surprised to find that he had been upgraded to first class."*

*"I was confused by the findings of the report."*

*"She felt tired after working hard all day."*

### '-ing' adjectives

Adjectives that end in -ing are used to describe things and situations. Compare these example sentences to the ones above:

*"Being upgraded to first class is surprising."*

*"The findings of this report are confusing."*

*"Working hard all day long is tiring."*

Feel '-ed'	Describe '-ing'
<i>Annoyed</i>	<i>Annoying</i>
<i>Bored</i>	<i>Boring</i>
<i>Confused</i>	<i>Confusing</i>
<i>Depressed</i>	<i>Depressing</i>
<i>Excited</i>	<i>Exciting</i>
<i>Frightened</i>	<i>Frightening</i>
<i>Satisfied</i>	<i>Satisfying</i>
<i>Shocked</i>	<i>Shocking</i>

# Comparatives and Superlatives

## Comparative Adjectives

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify (*larger, smaller, faster, higher*). They are used in sentences where two nouns are compared, in this pattern:

**"A" is (comparative adjective) *than* "B".**

***"My house is larger than hers."***

The second item of comparison can be omitted if it is clear from the context.

***"Jim and Jack are both my friends, but I like Jack better."*** ('than Jim' is understood)

### Form

- 1 syllable adjectives:                      add **'-er'** to the adjective
- 2 syllables ending in 'y':                  remove 'y' and add **'-ier'**
- 2 or more syllables:                      **more + adjective**

## Superlative Adjectives

Superlative adjectives are used to describe an object which is at the upper or lower limit of a quality (*the tallest, the smallest, the fastest, the highest*). They are used in sentences where a subject is compared to a group of objects.

**"C" is *the* (superlative adjective).**

***"Mark's house is the biggest in our neighbourhood."***

The group that it is being compared to can be omitted if it is clear from the context.

***"We all threw our rocks at the same time. My rock flew the highest."***

## Form

- 1 syllable adjectives: add '**-est**' to the adjective
- 2 syllables ending in 'y': remove 'y' and add '**-iest**'
- 2 or more syllables: **most** + adjective

## Irregular Comparatives and Superlatives

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Good	Better	Best
Bad	Worse	Worst
Little	Less	Least
Much	More	Most
Far	Further / farther	Furthest / farthest

# Limits and Restrictions

## Too

**'too'** means more than needed

*"The car is too big for the garage."*

*"Footballers earn too much money."*

*"I bought too much food, I'm stuffed!"*

*"I'm not too worried about the exam."*

## Enough

**'enough'** means sufficient

*"I don't have enough time."*

*"You're not working fast enough."*

*"Have you got enough money to pay?"*

*"I have more than enough."*

**We can even use both for the same situation:**

*"The truck is too tall to go under the bridge."*

*The bridge is too small for the truck to go under it."*

THANK YOU

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