

# beau·ti·ful

S1 W2

/ˈbjʊ:tɪf l/

adjective

**1** BEAUTIFUL/GOOD-LOOKING someone or something that is beautiful is extremely attractive to look at:

*She was even more beautiful than I had remembered.  
a beautiful bunch of flowers*

**2** GOOD/EXCELLENT very good or giving you great pleasure

**SYN** lovely

*beautiful music*

*What a beautiful shot!*

*The weather was beautiful.*

— **beautifully** adverb

## THESAURUS

### person

**beautiful** a beautiful woman or child has perfect good looks: *Grace Kelly was a very beautiful woman. | a beautiful baby*

**good-looking** a good-looking person looks nice. **Good-looking** is very common in spoken English: *He's a good-looking guy, but he's a bit boring. | Do you think she's good-looking?*

**attractive** an attractive person looks nice, especially in a way that makes you feel sexually interested in them: *She's a very attractive woman. | A lot of women find him attractive.*

**pretty** a pretty girl or woman looks nice – used especially about a woman who has a nice face: *You look pretty with your hair down. | She has a very pretty face.*

**handsome** a handsome man or boy looks nice – used especially about a man who has a nice face. **Handsome** is also sometimes used, especially in literature, to describe a woman who is good-looking and has a strong face: *He was tall, dark, and handsome.* | *She was a big, handsome woman.*

**gorgeous/stunning** (spoken) extremely attractive.

**Gorgeous** is used especially by women: *She thinks Brad Pitt is gorgeous.* | *You look absolutely stunning in that dress!*

**cute** (spoken) nice to look at – used about animals, babies, children, and young adults: *a cute little puppy* | *She thinks you're cute!*

**lovely** (especially BrE) (spoken) used when saying that someone looks very nice: *You look lovely tonight.*

## place/thing etc

**beautiful** used to describe something that looks, feels, sounds etc so good that it gives you a lot of pleasure: *a beautiful tropical beach* | *a beautiful song* | *The weather was beautiful.*

**lovely** (especially BrE) (spoken) used when saying that something looks, feels, or sounds very nice: *What a lovely day!* | *a lovely voice* | *a lovely perfume*

**pretty** pleasant to look at – often used about things that are not big or impressive: *a pretty little pink dress* | *a pretty village*

**attractive** pleasant to look at. **Attractive** sounds more formal than **pretty**: *an attractive white-painted cottage with green shutters* | *an attractive city*

**magnificent** very big, beautiful, and impressive – used about buildings, objects, and views: *The Taj Mahal always looks magnificent.* | *a magnificent Persian carpet* | *There were magnificent views over the old city.*

**picturesque** (written) pleasant to look at – used in written descriptions of towns, buildings, and places: *the picturesque*

*harbour town of Castleton|Regensburg Cathedral occupies a picturesque position on the River Danube in Bavaria.*

**stunning/ breathtaking** extremely beautiful and impressive – used especially about views: *All around is a stunning view of Cape Town. | The landscape is breathtaking.*

**exquisite** /ɪk'skwɪzɪt, 'ekskwi-/ used to describe things that have very beautiful small details, especially things that have been made with a lot of skill: *an exquisite piece of jewellery|an exquisite flower|an exquisite picture of a bird of paradise*

**elegant** designed in a way that looks very attractive and has a lot of style: *an elegant Neo-Classical building|a long and elegant staircase*