

## UNIT 6 TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE SPECIAL

**Practice 1.** Look at the following picture and discuss with your friends the following questions!



Picture 6a

1. What can you say about these two persons?
2. Do you think one is someone special of the other?
3. What makes someone special?
4. Have you got someone special? Where did you meet him/her?

**Practice 2a.** Read the following dialogue and practice with your friends in pairs!

***Situation:** Tia and Melda are talking about someone special.*

- Tia : Hi, Melda, you look so happy.  
Melda : Hi, Tia. You're right. I'm really happy.  
Tia : Really? Why?  
Melda : I got a letter from my best friend. She has been in Paris for two years. We will meet soon.  
Tia : Wow... it sounds interesting.  
Melda : I am so excited. We are going to meet this July. She says she has long holiday. It's a summer holiday so we are going to spend a week together for spending the holiday.  
Tia : How does she look like? Is she singing freak like you?  
Melda : Well, that's true. Singing connects our world. She and I met when we were at senior high school. We joined school choir for almost two years. Her voice is so beautiful and she also dances very well.  
Tia : She must be tall and slim like you. I wonder whether she has graceful neck.

Melda : As far as I can remember, she is 170 centimeters and she has brown beautiful skin. She still keeps her long thick black hair. It helps to beautify her appearance especially for traditional dance from Bali.

Tia : What does she study in Paris?

Melda : She studies about dance. She has won scholarship from Julliard. I think she deserves it. She has never stopped dancing and she has won international competition in choreography.

Tia : Anyway, will you dance together?

Melda : I think so. We plan to join a dance festival this year. We hope to win it.

Tia : Good luck! I hope you will get it.

**Practice 2b.** Discuss the dialog above and write down the clue of personal information that you get about Melda's close friend!

Personal Information	Description

**Practice 3a.** Group Discussion. Look at the following picture and interpret in a group of 3-4 persons about someone special. Use the words below!

1. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life. ~ *Rita Rudner*
2. In life, there is always that special person who shapes who you are, who helps to determine the person you become. ~ *Molly Ringwald*
3. It takes someone very special to help you forget someone very special. ~ *Erich Segal*
4. A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow. ~ *William Shakespeare*
5. An older sister is a friend and defender - a listener, conspirator, a counsellor and a sharer of delights. And sorrows too. ~ *Pam Brown*
6. A friend is one who has the same enemies as you have. ~ *Abraham Lincoln*

**Practice 3b.** Make a chart of qualities of “Special Person” in words like the sample below. Use in as your poster in doing presentation in a group!



Picture 6b

## Grammar Focus

### Adjectives to Describe a Person

People vary in terms of their physical appearance and personalities, and the words that are used to describe them are just as varied. Some words are better suited to describing the physical appearance of someone, some are best used to describe the person's style, and others are ideal for describing the person's character traits. It is important to have these words in your written and spoken vocabulary because you may, at some point in your life, face a situation that requires you to describe someone.

#### A. Personality

Personality means an individual's tendencies to behave, think, and react in a particular way. Most sociologists agree that personalities come about from the cultures and families in which people are raised.

1. **Calm:** Serene, Someone who has a calm personality does not get agitated or upset easily.  
Example: Sona's **calm**, cool personality makes her the ideal leader for the hiking team.  
Related adjectives: serene, tranquil, unagitated
2. **Arrogant:** Consumed with self-importance. Someone who is arrogant thinks too highly of him/herself and thinks very little about the opinions of others. Arrogant people are often disliked by others.  
Example: He was so **arrogant** that he neglected to take heed to the warnings of the locals that a trek up the mountain was dangerous.
3. **Humble:** Meek, considerate of others, acknowledging of one's limitations.  
Example: The humble librarian **won** the respect of all the library users.  
Related adjectives: meek, mild, modest.
4. **Eccentric:** Eccentric personalities are out of the box. They are unusual and often strange in the eyes of others.  
Example: Donahue was so **eccentric** that even the few friends he had, had trouble keeping up with him.  
Related adjectives: bizarre, outre, nonconcentric.
5. **Charismatic:** The ability to effortlessly winning the affections of others.  
Example: Even though Calvin was new to the school, his **charismatic** ways soon won over most of the students and this was the main reason he won the race for class president.  
Related adjectives: magnetic

## B. Style

A person's style is really their way of dressing, and the way they carry themselves. Personality plays a significant role in determining style. As with personality therefore, there are many different words that can be used to describe style. Some of them are explored in this section.

1. **Flamboyant:** Having a preference for the fashionably glamorous and expensive things. A flamboyant style is also known as a larger than life approach. People with this personality are extremely excessive in their search for attention, the limelight, and fashion.  
Example: The **flamboyant** new office attendant got the attention of everyone each time she stepped into the office decked out in a trendy new outfit.  
Related adjectives: aureate, florid
2. **Chic:** Fashionably current. A chic style is usually simple, unique, and fashionable all at the same time.  
Example: Carmen has always been a **chic** fashion enthusiast, so her decision to choose a career in this field did not surprise anyone.  
Related adjectives: voguish, smart, stylish, fashionable

3. **Eclectic**: possessing a style that is inspired by varying ideas and cultures.

Example: The **eclectic** world history teacher never ceased to amaze his students with new and culturally diverse wardrobe items.

4. **Modest**: Simple and conventional. The opposite of flamboyant or risqué. Someone with a modest style usually go for the simple.

Example: The two girls couldn't be more different in style with Samantha having a flair for the extravagant and Samara being

Related adjectives: humble

### C. Nationality/ Ethnic Background

Nationality is the nation or country to which someone belongs to. Ethnic background is essentially the Ethnic group (such as Asian, Caucasian, etc...) to which an individual belongs. The rules of English state that adjectives that fall in this category should be capitalized. The exceptions to this rule are ethnicity adjectives that refer to color. The first four examples in this section are nationality adjectives while the other two are ethnicity adjectives.

1. **Hungarian**: A national of Hungary

Example: Bernadett is **Hungarian**, but her husband isn't.

2. **Ethiopian**: Possessing Ethiopian citizenship.

Example: Our new foreign exchange student is **Ethiopian** and very proud of his heritage and culture.

3. **British**: Belonging to Britain

Example: The **British** model brought global attention to world hunger when she volunteered to spend three months delivering food to starving children.

4. **American**: Belonging to America. This word usually refers to citizens of the United States of America and not to those who live in South America. Citizens of South America are usually referred to by using adjectives that come from the name of their countries and in general, are called South Americans.

Example: The **American** driver won a race.

5. **Hispanic**: This word is used to describe the ethnic identity of persons from Spanish speaking countries.

Example: The **Hispanic** instructor was so great that all his students begged for longer, more frequent lessons.

6. **Caucasian**: This word typically refers to members of the white race.

Example: The reporter identified the Good Samaritan as a **Caucasian** male in his late fifties.

7. **Black**: Belonging to the race that originated in Africa characterized by dark or brown complexion and curly hair.

Example: The quartet was racially even, with two **black** singers and two white ones.

## A. Physical Appearance

Physical appearance is self-explanatory. It includes aspects of an individual that others can see, hear, and feel, such as hair, height, and shape. Each aspect has its own set of suitable descriptive words. This section explores some of those words. The focus for this section will be words that describe the physical appearance of people.

**1. Hair:** The texture and color of an individual's hair is determined, to a great extent by his/her ethnicity. Nowadays however, a lot of methods are used to change hair color and texture. The words below describe the physical appearance of human hair.

a. **Straight:** Consisting of elongated strands with no curves. Naturally straight hair is associated with persons who are Caucasian, Asian, or Indian. Persons with straight hair achieve curly hair by using different styling methods and tools.

Example: She had long flowing **straight** hair that danced beautifully on windy days.

b. **Curly:** Consisting of several curves. Some Indians and Caucasians may have curly hair, but this type of hair is most popular with individuals of African descent. Curly hair can be straightened temporarily to achieve a different look.

Example: His **curly** hair fell messily on his forehead, creating an almost artistic noodle-like arrangement against his skin.

c. **Cropped:** Cut short to embrace the face. Cropped hair is cut close to the scalp and is a unisex hairstyle which means that it suits both men and women.

Example: Her short **cropped** hair formed a perfect frame for her heart-shaped face.

d. **Black:** Having a completely dark color. Often described as the absence of light or the opposite of white. This hair color is the most popular natural human hair color.

Example: Her **black** hair was swept into an elaborate upsweep that wowed everyone at the pageant.

e. **Auburn:** A variety of red hair that is a cross between brown and red. Example: She brushed her silky **auburn** hair behind her ear and smiled sheepishly at him.

f. **Blonde:** A yellowish hair color. This hair color comes in a variety of yellow or gold shades which range from rich or heavy to light. This word is often used to describe a woman who has hair of this color. Men's hair can also be described as **blond**.

Example: She bowed her head and started to pray; all they could see was a mop of light **blonde** hair neatly arranged on her head and effectively masking her face.



- g. **Brunette:** Dark brown hair. This word is used to describe a woman who has this type of hair.  
Example: The amicable, tall **brunette** contestant stood out among all her blonde counterparts.

**2. Height:** Some height adjectives, such as monumental, are unsuitable for descriptions of people. However, below are some height adjectives that are appropriate for descriptions of people.

- a. **Towering:** Much taller than the norm. Someone who is described as towering tends to be so tall, that he or she has to look down at others.  
Example: His **towering** physique made him attractive to recruiters for basketball teams.
- b. **Tapering:** In referring to height this word means very tall and thin. It is similar to towering, but is not as popular in use. Be careful in using it however, as it does have another meaning. In describing other things, it carries the meaning; diminishing or lessening.  
Example: The tiny baby boy soon grew into a **tapering**, well-groomed young man.
- c. **Lanky:** Very tall and slim in an unappealing or clumsy way. This word is often used to describe someone in a negative way.  
Example: I carefully glanced at the reflection in the store window and realized that my stalker was a **lanky**, greasy haired man who seemed to be in his forties.
- d. **Squat:** Short and thickset. This word is used to describe someone who is short.  
Example: She looked down at him from the balcony and was bemused at how unusually **squat** he appeared from that angle.
- e. **Dwarfish:** small in stature. This word helps to create an image of a person who is extremely short, like a dwarf.  
Example: She smiled after glimpsing at his **dwarfish** figure running away from mischief.

**3. Shapes:** Another area in which human beings differ is the shape of their bodies. Shape adjectives help to create clear and visual images of the physical appearance of people. Some shape adjectives are more suitable to a particular gender as the examples below will illustrate.

- a. **Curvaceous:** Possessing attractive curves. This word is suitable for describing females who have attractive physiques.  
Example: Her **curvaceous** physique awed everyone as she strutted on the catwalk.
- b. **Chiseled:** Prominently outlined. This word is most appropriate for the description of a man's face, especially his jaw line. It is also used to describe well-developed muscles of an athlete or fitness pro.

Example: Her firm and **chiseled** calves, which made her the envy of all her friends, were the products of years and years of hard work in the gym.

- c. **Rotund**: Having a plump or round shape.

Example: A **rotund** police officer continuously glared at them through the window, making them feel extremely guilty.

- d. **Plump**: Round in shape or fat.

Example: The terminally ill patient was accompanied to her bed by a **plump**, kind nurse who made her feel relaxed and safe.

## B. Characteristics and Traits

A part of what makes each individual unique is his or her characteristics and traits. People's characteristics or traits become clear when they speak, act, and interact with others. The things that are habitually said and done help to determine someone's characteristic or trait. These attributes are most adequately described by using adjectives such as the ones in this section.

1. **Clever**: Very smart. Some other words for clever are; shrewd or witty.

Example: There was no need to worry as the experienced and **clever** technician was able to figure out the problem almost immediately.

2. **Generous**: Kind and considerate of others.

Example: The fire victims were offered food and clothing by a **generous** community member who heard about their plight.

3. **Mysterious**: Difficult to understand. Seemingly secretive

Example: The most intriguing part of the novel was the **mysterious** stranger who appeared suddenly in the town.

4. **Creative**: Talented when it comes to finding new solutions, fixing things, or coming up with novel ideas.

Example: The ideal candidate for the position is a **creative**, multi-tasker who has excellent people skills.

5. **Flexible**: Open to and accepting of changes. Easily adaptable to new situations and environments.

Example: The new principal was **flexible** enough to allow for some very novel changes in the way the school is run, such as the introduction of student-led days where the students and teachers switched roles temporarily.

## Language Expression: Asking & Giving Opinions

### A. Asking for Opinions

- **What do you think of** my best friend, Nancy?
- **What's your opinion** about that new student in school? Isn't she amazing?
- **What are your ideas** to celebrate our work anniversary?



- **Do you have any thoughts on that?** Have you seen my effort to help her?
- **How do you feel about that?** She has put you in trouble and she doesn't help you?

### B. Giving Opinions

- **I think** we should get find her interest. She must be happy if we can share it.
- **I don't think** we need one. It should be discussed before we decide.
- **I believe (that)** smoking should be outlawed.
- **I don't believe (that)** it should be illegal.
- **In my opinion**, *Gone with the Breeze* is the best movie ever made.
- **I feel that** it's the right thing to do.
- **I don't feel that** it's such a good idea.

**Practice 4a.** Look at the pictures below. Compare the qualities of a special person based on the situation given. It can be classified into the following aspects!



Picture 6c



Picture 6d

	Personality	Style	Nationality/ Ethnic Background	Physical Appearance	Characteristics and Traits
Picture 6c					
Picture 6d					

**Practice 4b.** Work in a group of four. Find out who their someone special is and fill in the tables with their description!

	Personality	Style	Nationality/ Ethnic Background	Physical Appearance	Characteristics and Traits
Person A					
Person B					
Person C					
Person D					

**Practice 5.** Read the text below and find out kind of celebrities. Discuss it with your friends in class. Find out whether they are also someone special!

### **Are celebrities someone special for you?**

Celebrities are everywhere nowadays: on TV, in magazines, online. Is this preoccupation with famous people harmless fun or is it bad for us? How many people are truly obsessed with modern media idols? And on the other side of the coin, can fame be harmful to the celebrities?

Studies suggest that the vast majority of teenagers do not really worship celebrities. Researchers have identified three kinds of fans. About 15% of young people have an 'entertainment-social' interest. They love chatting about their favorite celebrities with friends and this does not appear to do any harm.

Another 5% feel that they have an 'intense-personal' relationship with a celebrity. Sometimes they see them as their soulmate and find that they are often thinking about them, even when they don't want to. These people are more at risk from depression and anxiety. If girls in this group idolize a female star with a body they consider to be perfect, they are more likely to be unhappy with their own bodies.

That leaves 2% of young people with a 'borderline-pathological' interest. They might say, for example, they would spend several

thousand pounds on a paper plate the celebrity had used, or that they would do something illegal if the celebrity asked them to. These people are in most danger of being seriously disturbed.

What about the celebrities themselves? A study in the USA tried to measure narcissism or extreme self-centeredness, when feelings of worthlessness and invisibility are compensated for by turning into the opposite: excessive showing off. Researchers looked at 200 celebrities, 200 young adults with Masters in Business Administration (a group known for being narcissistic) and a nationally representative sample using the same questionnaire. As was expected, the celebrities were significantly more narcissistic than the MBAs and both groups were a lot more narcissistic than the general population.

Four kinds of celebrity were included in the sample. The most narcissistic were the ones who had become famous through reality TV shows – they scored highest on vanity and willingness to exploit other people. Next came comedians, who scored highest on exhibitionism and feelings of superiority. Then came actors, and the least narcissistic were musicians. One interesting result was that there was no connection between narcissism and the length of time the celebrity had been famous. This means that becoming famous probably did not make the celebrities narcissistic – they already were beforehand.

So, what can we learn from this? People who are very successful or famous tend to be narcissists and are liable to be ruthless, self-seeking workaholics. As we can see from celebrity magazines, they are also often desperate and lonely. They make disastrous role models.

**Practice 6. ROLE PLAY.** You need to be in a group of 3 persons. There will be 3 cards to be distributed for each of you. You need to read the explanation and pretend to be the person in your card!

#### **ROLE CARD A**

You are Dave Buckham, a famous footballer and celebrity. You are about to appear as a guest on a live television show. A journalist is going to ask you and your wife, Veronica Spice, some questions.

Earlier today you received a phone call from Veronica. She says she knows you are cheating on her with another woman. She is very angry and says she is leaving you

Preparation Think of the questions the journalist is going to ask you. Plan your answers. Your fans will be watching the show. You are a role model for lots of young people. It is important to say the right thing. Think of explanations to show Veronica that you aren't cheating on her.

#### **ROLE CARD B**

You are Veronica Spice, ex-member of the world-famous pop group 'The Spice Chicks'. You are married to Dave Buckham, a famous footballer and celebrity. You are about to appear as a guest on a live television show. A journalist is going to ask you and your husband some questions.

You think Dave is cheating on you with another woman. You are very angry. You love David but this isn't the first time he has cheated on you. This time you have evidence.

Preparation Think of the questions the journalist is going to ask you. Plan your answers. Your fans will be watching the show. You are a role model for lots of young people. It is important to say the right thing. Think about what you are going to tell the journalist and what you aren't going to tell!

### **Role Card C**

You are a television journalist. On today's show you are going to interview two guest celebrities; Dave Buckham, a famous footballer and his wife, Veronica Spice (ex-member of the world-famous pop group 'The Spice Chicks'.)

You have heard a rumour that the celebrity couple are having problems in their marriage. You think TV viewers will be very interested in this news.

Preparation Prepare some questions to ask your two celebrity guests. Lots of their fans will be watching the show. People love gossip! Viewers already know a lot about Dave and Veronica. They want to learn something new. Try to make your questions original. Ask them about the rumour you heard. But try to be polite! This is a day time television show!