

## 8 Compound adjectives for physical characteristics

### Activity A

#### Common combinations


It is common to describe people and animals using compound adjectives involving body parts. Examples: *The tribe hunt the long-necked, sharp-beaked bird in the forest canopy. She has a beautiful pink-cheeked, green-eyed baby girl. Take a look at this smooth-skinned lizard which, like all reptiles, is of course cold-blooded.* In these examples the adjectives relate to physical aspects of the creature/person described. There are also some **which** can be used to describe character, behaviour or ability. Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences below which have been separated in the middle of a compound adjective. Look up the words in the dictionary to check your guesses.

Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences:

1 I remember he was the kindest boy at school but now he's a hard	a -fingered he makes growing your own vegetables look really easy.
2 I am pleased to say that she is a level	b -handed and doesn't really listen to other people's ideas at all.
3 I can't believe how two	c -faced she has been. I've just found out that she has been saying horrible things behind my back.
4 My grandfather is so green	d -skinned.
5 She's miserable because her new boss is very high	e -tailed in the morning.
6 Make sure you put your belongings in a locker as there are a few light	f -headed person and I would be happy to recommend her for a career in nursing.
7 Go to sleep now. We have to be bright-eyed and bushy	g -fingered people working in this building.
8 Don't worry too much about offending her because she's very thick	h -nosed city businessman.

To broaden your vocabulary you could work with a partner and each look up one of the following body parts in the dictionary: - **faced**, - **eyed**. These two body parts are used to form a considerable number of adjectives. Each of you could teach the meanings to your partner.

### Activity B

There are a few compound adjectives with body parts **which** do not relate to people or animals. What objects  would you expect the following adjectives to describe? Check your ideas in the dictionary.

- 1 V-necked or round-necked
- 2 dog-eared
- 3 full-bodied