

## Describing people

### Intermediate

#### 1 Antonyms

Match the adjectives below to the word which means the opposite:

tall	ugly
weak	mean
young	small
fat	short
beautiful	thin
generous	old
big	strong

#### 2 Match the adjectives

Match the adjectives in A below to the adjectives in B. Example: *middle-aged* is closest in meaning to *old/young*:

A	B	A
overweight	short	good-looking
elderly	fat	slim
middle-aged	tall	of medium height
chubby	young	skinny
muscular	strong	attractive
handsome	generous	gorgeous
well-built	thin	plain
petite	beautiful	
	big	
	mean	
	ugly	
	old	
	small	

Which of the words above have a negative, critical meaning?

Which of the words in list A can be used to describe the people below?

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| a. a man            | b. a woman          |
| c. a person over 50 | d. a person over 70 |
| e. a bodybuilder    | f. a supermodel     |
| g. you              |                     |



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#### 5 Hollywood actors and actresses required!

Read this advertisement from a Hollywood magazine. Do you think they are looking for the lead actor for the movie *Superman XII*, or the movie *Everlasting Love*?

*Mirrorman Studios* seek a tall, muscular man with bright, blue eyes and full, sexy lips to play in our new movie. He must be extremely handsome, fit and athletic, and very strong. Experience of flying important. Please apply to *Mirrorman Studios*.

Now, using the adjectives you have learned, write an advertisement, seeking lead actors or actresses for one of the following movies:

*Braveheart II*  
*Die Hard VI*  
*Star Wars Episode IX*  
*Two Weddings and a Birthday Party*  
*True Love*  
*The Funny Policeman*

#### 6 Describe your family

Prepare to describe people in your family. Think of two or three people in your family and write notes to describe them. When you are ready, work with a partner, and ask and answer questions:

Can you describe \_\_\_\_\_(your mother, father, sister, brother)?

What does he / she look like?

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### Teacher's notes – Describing people (Intermediate)

- 1 At this level it is a good idea to find visuals to help teach these words. You could bring in pictures from magazines of different people. Ask the students to describe the pictures, eliciting descriptive words and phrases. Put the students in pairs to match the adjectives to their opposite.

**Answers:**

tall	=	short	ugly	=	beautiful
weak	=	strong	old	=	young
big	=	small	fat	=	thin

- 2 Put the students in pairs to match the adjectives B to the adjectives in A. They should match by deciding how close the words are in meaning.

**Answers:**

overweight	=	fat	good-looking	=	beautiful
elderly	=	old	slim	=	thin
middle-aged	=	old/young	of medium height	=	tall/short
chubby	=	fat	skinny	=	thin
muscular	=	strong	attractive	=	beautiful
handsome	=	beautiful	gorgeous	=	beautiful
well-built	=	strong	plain	=	ugly/beautiful
petite	=	small/thin			

**A negative, critical meaning: *skinny* or *plain*.**

**The words that can particularly be used to describe:**

- a. a man = Handsome is almost always only used with men. All the other words can be used to describe men, except petite and plain (it is rare to describe a man as beautiful).
- b. a woman = Petite and plain are only used with women. All the other words can be used to describe women (it is rare to describe a woman as handsome or well-built).
- c. a person over 50 = middle-aged
- d. a person over 70 = elderly
- e. a bodybuilder = well-built, muscular
- f. a supermodel = good-looking, attractive, gorgeous, slim, skinny
- g. you = students' own ideas

- 3 Ask the students to put the adverbs in order from the weakest to the strongest.

**Answers:**

not very > quite > fairly > very > really > extremely > absolutely

Put the students in pairs to match an adverb from the list to one of the adjectives in exercises 1 and 2, then write a sentence to rephrase the sentences. Read through the example. It is important that they note that not all of the adverbs collocate with all of the adjectives.

**Suggested answers:**

1. She's absolutely gorgeous.
2. He's extremely muscular/strong/well-built.
3. She's very skinny.
4. I'm quite/fairly chubby.
5. Frank is very handsome.

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**Note:** *absolutely* only goes with *gorgeous*. This is because we only use *absolutely* with very strong, extreme adjectives. You could give students other examples. For example, *very big*, *absolutely enormous*.

- 4 **Ask the students to match the parts of the face with the list of adjectives that can be used to describe them.**

**Answers:**

ears = big, cauliflower, sticky-out  
nose = big, snub, pointed  
eyes = big, bright, blue  
lips = thin, full, sexy

- 5 **Ask the students to read the advertisement from a Hollywood magazine and answer the question.**

**Answer:**

They are looking for the lead actor for the movie, *Superman XII*.

**Ask the students to write a short advertisement, seeking lead actors or actresses for one of the movies in the list. Monitor and help with ideas and vocabulary. When the students have finished, redistribute their advertisements for other students to read and guess which film an actor or actress is required for.**

- 6 **Give the students a few minutes to prepare to describe people in their family. When they are ready, put the students in pairs or small groups to ask and answer questions. You may need to check they know the question structure. Write the question structure on the board if necessary.**