

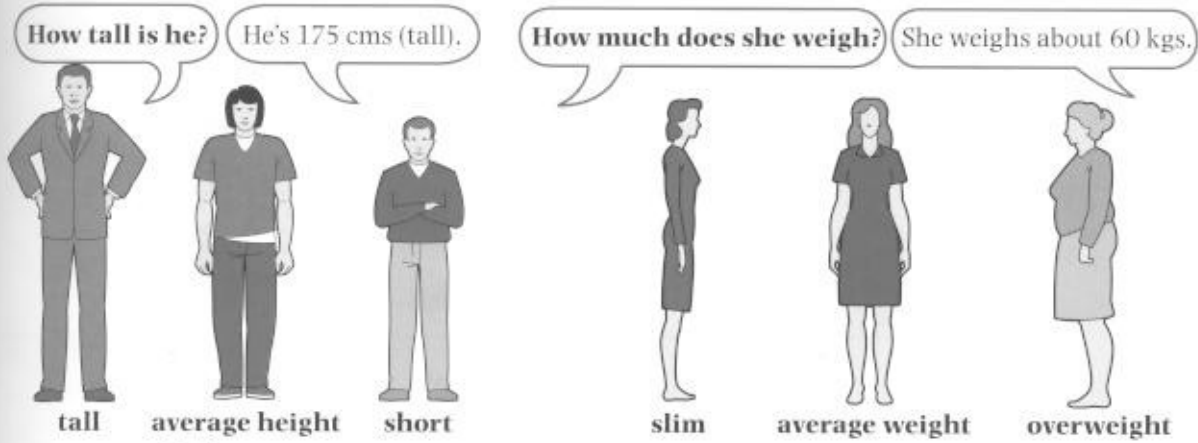
People – age, character

Taken from:

Gairns, Ruth.Redman, Stuart. Oxford Word Skills. Oxford:OUP, 2008. ISBN 978-019-462003-1

13 I can describe people

A General description



1 True or false? Write *T* or *F*.

- ▶ If you are *overweight*, you aren't *slim*. T
- 1 Average height means not tall and not short. _____
- 2 Attractive and *good-looking* mean the same. _____
- 3 You can say a man is *good-looking* or *beautiful*. _____
- 4 If someone is *fat*, they are *overweight*. _____
- 5 The answer to 'How much does he weigh?' is '200 cms'. _____
- 6 'How tall are you?' is correct. _____
- 7 It is polite to call someone *fat* and *ugly*. _____
- 8 *Thin* and *slim* mean the same, but *thin* is more positive. _____

spotlight *thin, fat, ugly*

- **Thin** means **slim**, but **slim** is more positive.
- It isn't polite to tell someone they are **fat**. It is more polite to say they are **overweight**.
- The opposite of **beautiful/good-looking** is **ugly**, but it isn't polite to tell someone they're **ugly**.

2 Complete the dialogues. Don't use the words in *italics* in your answer.

- ▶ Is he *attractive*? ~ Yes, he's *good-looking* _____.
- 1 She's not tall or short, really. ~ No, she's *average* _____.
- 2 Are the two brothers *attractive*? ~ Yes, they're both _____.
- 3 Is she quite *thin*? ~ Yes, she's very _____.
- 4 He's about average weight. ~ Yes, he _____ 75 kgs.
- 5 Is he *overweight*? ~ Yes, he's a bit _____.
- 6 Is she very *attractive*? ~ Yes, she's _____.

3 Test yourself. Cover the words and look at the pictures. Say the words.

C How old are they? 🎧

Age	Word/phrase
→ 18 months: before they can walk	a baby
2 → 10 or 11	a child plural children
13 → about 17	a teenager OR a young person plural young people
18 →	an adult
about 45 → 60	a middle-aged person
65 →	an elderly man or woman (more polite than old)

spotlight	Other phrases for age
in his her	teens (13 → about 17)
in my	
his her	early twenties (20 → 23)
	mid-thirties (34 → 36)
	late fifties (57 → 59)

7 Match 1 – 8 with a – i.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ▶ me (45) <u>d</u> | a elderly |
| 1 my wife (38) _____ | b in her late thirties |
| 2 my son (6 months) _____ | c a teenager |
| 3 my daughter (7) _____ | d in my mid-forties ✓ |
| 4 my brother (47) _____ | e a baby |
| 5 my nephew (14) _____ | f in her early sixties |
| 6 my aunt (63) _____ | g an adult |
| 7 my father (79) _____ | h middle-aged |
| 8 my niece (21) _____ | i a child |

8 ABOUT YOU Write the names of people in your family, or tell another student.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ▶ a baby <u>Marcus (my sister's son)</u> | 4 an elderly woman _____ |
| 1 a young person _____ | 5 an elderly man _____ |
| 2 a middle-aged person _____ | 6 a baby _____ |
| 3 someone in his/her twenties _____ | 7 someone in his/her fifties _____ |

9 Test yourself. Cover column two of the table. Look at the 'age' column and say the words and phrases.

10 Read the police description. Which man are the police looking for, X or Y?

The man we are looking for is in his mid-thirties. He is slim, with dark brown curly hair and a moustache. If you see him, please ring the police on 0088 997 4422.



11 Write a description of the other man. Use the text above to help you.

The other man is _____

14 I can talk about character

A What's he/she like? 🎧

Word	Example	Meaning
friendly	<i>The students in my class are all really friendly; it's great.</i>	happy to meet and talk to other people OPP unfriendly
kind	<i>He visited me a lot in hospital, which was really kind.</i>	warm, friendly and always wanting to help other people
nice	<i>I met Colin on holiday and he's a really nice guy.</i>	kind and friendly (a very important word in spoken English) SYN pleasant OPP horrible
fun	<i>I love Karen; she's great fun.</i>	something or someone that makes you happy
funny	<i>John makes me laugh – he's just a really funny man.</i>	making you laugh 
relaxed	<i>My parents are very relaxed: they don't get angry if I'm late.</i>	calm
clever	<i>Tom is very clever – the best student in our class.</i>	able to learn and understand very quickly SYN intelligent OPP stupid
quiet	<i>She's quiet, but she can be funny.</i>	someone who is quiet doesn't say very much
serious	<i>I like our teacher but she's very serious.</i>	someone who is serious thinks a lot and doesn't laugh very much

1 Complete the words.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| ▶ f <u>u</u> n | 4 n <u> </u> e |
| 1 f <u> </u> y | 5 cl <u> </u> r |
| 2 q <u> </u> t | 6 f <u> </u> y |
| 3 r <u> </u> x <u> </u> d | 7 la <u> </u> h |

spotlight What's ... like?

We use this question to find out more about someone or something.

What's Jack like? ~ He's very nice.

NOT *He's like very nice.*

What was the film like? ~ Great!

2 Answer the questions.

What's...

▶ a synonym for nice? pleasant

1 the opposite of friendly? _____

2 a synonym for clever? _____

3 the opposite of nice? _____

4 the opposite of clever? _____

What do you call someone who...

▶ likes meeting and talking to people? friendly

5 makes you laugh? _____

6 thinks a lot and doesn't laugh a lot? _____

7 is usually calm? _____

8 always wants to help others? _____

3 Complete the conversations.

1 What's Alex like _____? ~ He's nice, but he's very _____. He doesn't laugh much.

2 What _____ Ana's parents like? ~ Well, her mother's great _____; I like her very much. But her father doesn't like people very much – he's really _____.

3 _____ was your grandmother like? ~ She was very _____ – she always helped everyone. And she was _____ too. She went to university.

B We like each other

WHY WE LIKE

each other.....



Gemma: "I met Sophie at university. I was **on my own**, and she came up and talked to me; she's like that. What's interesting is that we're **complete opposites**. She's very happy to meet new people, but I'm really **shy**; she's very **sociable**, I'm quiet; she's **sporty**, and I'm not. But it wasn't important. We became friends and **shared a flat** for two years. I'm very **organized** and did most of the housework. Sophie's not very **tidy**, and she can be **lazy** around the house. But she's a great cook and a really nice person."

Glossary

on my own alone OR without other people

be complete opposites be very different

shy If you're **shy**, you can't talk easily to people you don't know.

sociable friendly and liking to talk to people

sporty liking sport and good at it

share a flat live in the same flat as another person

organized An **organized** person plans things well.

tidy A **tidy** person likes everything to be in the right place. **OPP untidy**

lazy A **lazy** person doesn't like working. **OPP hardworking**

spotlight *really*

Really is important in spoken English. It means 'very' and you can use it before most adjectives.

*I'm in a **really** nice class.*

*She was **really** horrible to me.*

- 4 Find and write four more examples of *really* + adjective from page 36.

▶ really *kind* _____

- 5 Read the text again. Are these statements true or false? Write *T* or *F*.

- ▶ Sophie likes sport. *T* _____
- 1 Gemma was alone when she met Sophie. _____
- 2 Gemma and Sophie are very different. _____
- 3 Sophie likes meeting new people. _____
- 4 They lived together at university. _____
- 5 Gemma's sociable. _____
- 6 Sophie's very unfriendly. _____
- 7 Sophie's untidy. _____
- 8 Gemma doesn't plan things. _____

Listen to the CD-ROM and do the exercises.

- 6 ABOUT YOU Write your answers or ask another student.

What are you like? Are you ...

- 1 sporty or not sporty? _____
- 2 a very relaxed person? _____
- 3 usually tidy or untidy? _____
- 4 lazy or hardworking? _____
- 5 quiet or very sociable? _____
- 6 a very organized person? _____