

# **Lesson 2 – Appearance and Personality**

## Learning Objectives

**After this lesson, students will be able to:**

1. Discuss the importance of describing people.
2. Use vocabulary and idiomatic expressions related to appearance and personality to describe people.
3. Use correct of order of adjectives in describing things and people.
4. Explore reasons why people want to look good.
5. Identify words related to appearance and personality.
6. Use quantifiers to describe people.
7. Describe ideal personality of people.

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality



1. Are you generally good at judging people's personality?
2. Can you tell by just looking (or listening) whether a person is confident, gregarious, shy, responsible, calm, or attention-seeking?
3. Is appearance related to personality?

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

**Describing people is not as simple as it sounds.**

**When is it necessary to describe oneself or someone else?**

Let's face it. It's not something that comes up in everyday conversation; there are a limited number of situations in which we are required to describe people:

1. When we are getting to know someone, we may mention and describe someone in our family.
2. When someone has to meet someone they've never met before face to face (they're picking them up at the airport).
3. When we're trying to get someone to meet someone else (to go on a date, for example).



# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

HEIGHT	BUILD	AGE	FACE	EYES	HAIR
Tall Short Medium height	Slim Thin Plump Fat Skinny Well-built	Young Elderly Middle-aged Teenager In 20's, 30's, 40's	Round Oval Square With scars Wrinkles Freckles Sun-tanned Pale	Big round blue eyes, large, small, bright, narrow	Bald Straight Curly Spiky Wavy

Using the table, describe the following people.



**YOUR BOSS**



**YOUR BEST FRIEND**



**YOUR MOTHER**



**YOUR PRESIDENT**

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

**Adjectives** can be used to describe lots of things, from *physical size, age, shape, color, material*, to more abstract things like *opinion, origin and purpose*.

When we group adjectives together there is a general (sometimes flexible) rule for the position of each type of adjective, these are:

Position	1st*	2nd*	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
	Opinion	Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Material	Origin	Purpose
	Nice	Small	Old	Square	Black	Plastic	British	Racing
	Ugly	Big	New	Circular	Blue	Cotton	American	Running

**For example:**

"She had a long, ugly nose." emphasizing the length of her nose.

"He was a silly, little man." emphasizing that the man was silly.

This is just for fun as you wouldn't normally see so many adjectives in one description.

**For example:**

"She had a big, ugly, old, baggy, blue, stripey, cotton, British, knitting bag."

Does it matter if you get it wrong? Well outside of exams and tests, it won't kill you, but people reading or listening to you will find it odd if you mix up the order.

**Note:** You might swap adjectives that express an opinion and an adjective based on fact depending on what you wish to emphasize:-

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

Fill in the blanks with the correct order of adjectives.

1. He was wearing a \_\_\_\_\_ shirt.

dirty old flannel  
flannel old dirty  
old dirty flannel

2. Pass me the \_\_\_\_\_ cups.

plastic big blue  
big blue plastic  
big plastic blue

3. All the girls fell in love with the \_\_\_\_\_ teacher.

handsome new American  
American new handsome  
new handsome American

4. I used to drive \_\_\_\_\_ car.

a blue old German  
an old German blue  
an old blue German

5. He recently married a \_\_\_\_\_ woman.

young beautiful Greek  
beautiful young Greek  
beautiful Greek young

6. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ movie.

new Italian wonderful  
wonderful Italian new  
wonderful new Italian

7. She is a \_\_\_\_\_ supermodel.

beautiful slim Brazilian  
Brazilian beautiful slim  
slim Brazilian beautiful

8. It's in the \_\_\_\_\_ container.

large blue metal  
blue large metal  
blue metal large

9. He sat behind a \_\_\_\_\_ desk.

big wooden brown  
big brown wooden  
wooden big brown

10. She gave him a \_\_\_\_\_ vase.

small Egyptian black  
black Egyptian small  
small black Egyptian

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

Looks matter a lot in many situations. Every person wants to look his best. People all over the world spend millions of dollars to look good.

**State with reasons whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

## Why One Needs to Look Good?

1. To impress people in social situations.
2. To look one's best in the workplace, where one deals with the public.
3. One feels good if one looks good.
4. A physically attractive person attracts a lot of people.
5. It helps in building up relationships.
6. Physical appearance does matter in a relationship.
7. It boosts self-confidence and self-esteem.
8. A pleasing face is nice to look at.
9. An attractive physical appearance enhances personality.
10. A physically attractive person, who is well-groomed, can impress upon people.

Source: <https://www.paggu.com/getting-into-roots/top-10-reasons-why-physical-appearance-is-so-important/>



# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

**Match the words with the correct meaning and identify whether the word is a positive or negative trait.**

- A. very offensive, unpleasant, or rude
- B. someone who is very kind and caring.
- C. someone who is very annoying.
- D. determined to be successful, rich or powerful.
- E. someone who cannot be trusted because they are unpredictable and have irresponsible behavior which can cause trouble.
- F. someone who is humble, a realistic and practical person who has sensible reactions and expectations.
- G. seeing little or no good in other people, believing that people do good things for bad reasons.
- H. practical, reasonable, something that makes sense.
- I. someone who is impulsive does things without considering the possible dangers or problems first.
- J. having strange, unusual or abnormal habits or tastes (*This term is less insulting than strange, weird or bizarre*)

- 1. **Eccentric**
- 2. **Ambitious**
- 3. **Obnoxious**
- 4. **Impulsive**
- 5. **Cynical**
- 6. **Sensible**
- 7. **A heart of gold**
- 8. **A loose cannon**
- 9. **Down to earth**
- 10. **A pain in the neck**

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

## A. What is the best . . .

1. spouse like?
2. neighbor like?
3. boss like?
4. friend like?
5. you like?

**Why?**

## B. What is the worst . . .

1. spouse like?
2. neighbor like?
3. boss like?
4. friend like?
5. you like?

**Why?**



**C.** Describe one person you really know and like. Who is it? What are some things you like about him or her? How does he or she make you feel?

**D.** Describe one person you really know and don't like. Who is it? What are some of the reasons you don't like him or her? How does he or she make you feel?

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

**Qualifiers** help us to show the degree to which something is true or how strong it is. For example, is your best friend **really** quiet or **a bit** quiet? The qualifiers help us show how strong the adjective quiet is.

A qualifier always comes before an adjective or adverb. Here are some examples when talking about personality traits:

- **very**
- **quite**
- **rather**
- **somewhat**
- **so**
- **just**
- **Fairly**
- **really**
- **pretty**
- **a bit**
- **a little**
- **a (whole) lot**
- **kind of**
- **sort of**

## Examples:

*He's fairly quiet at work.*

*She's pretty studious. She'll definitely do well on her final exams.*

*I'm sort of moody, especially when I'm hungry. To be honest, I can get a bit hangry.\**

*\*hangry (adjective) – a slang word used to describe someone who is so hungry that they become angry or irritable.*

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

Describe using qualifiers from the previous page, describe the following. You may use the adjectives on the right for reference.

PEOPLE	PERSONALITY
Boss	
Best friend	
Mother	
Teacher	
Co-worker	
Spouse or Partner	
Yourself	

- moody
- bossy
- timid
- shy
- kind
- generous
- lazy
- cruel
- loud
- determined
- funny
- jealous
- stubborn
- sensitive
- bad-tempered
- anxious
- optimistic
- pessimistic
- passionate
- sincere
- intelligent
- cheerful
- impatient
- easygoing

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality



**As cold as ice** This idiom can be used to describe a person who does not show any emotion.



**Plain Jane** A plain Jane is a woman who isn't particularly attractive.



**Two-faced** Someone who is two-faced will say one thing to your face and another when you're not there.



**Cry-baby** A cry-baby is a person who gets emotional and cries too easily.

**Average Joe** An average Joe is an ordinary person without anything exceptional about them.



# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality



**Bald as a coot** A person who is completely bald is as bald as a coot.



**Bark is worse than their bite** Someone who's bark is worse than their bite may well get angry and shout, but doesn't take action.



**Good-for-nothing** A lazy person who doesn't do anything useful is a good-for-nothing.



**Dumb as a rock** If you are dumb as a rock, you have no common sense and are stupid.



**Bold as brass** Someone who is as bold as brass is very confident and not worried about how other people will respond or about being caught.



! For a story about pumping up one's confidence

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality



1. Describe your personality.
2. What kinds of people do you get along well with?
3. What kinds of personality traits do you hate?
4. How important is personality when you are choosing a spouse?
5. Do all of your friends have similar personalities?
6. What kind of personality traits are best for running a business?
7. What kind of personality should a doctor have?
8. Is your personality more similar to your mother's or father's?
9. Do you think we are born with our personalities, or do we develop them because of what happens to us?
10. What personality trait would you like to develop?
11. Which of your personality traits would you like to lose?

# Lesson 2. Appearance and Personality

## Odd one out.

/i:/

meet

seat

meat

sit

/eɪ/

take

name

eight

back

/i:/

pen

bean

me

eat

/aʊ/

art

cat

art

father



**The End**