

Describing people

A. Read the description and complete the chart with the relevant information:

Aunt Barbara

My aunt Barbara is my father's sister. She is about 35, but she looks much younger. She is a very attractive woman, with fair, curly hair, large, green eyes, and a beautiful fresh complexion. She is quite tall, but looks even taller because she dresses very well and always wears high-heeled shoes. She has a lovely, slim figure and I would like to look like her when I am her age.

Aunt Barbara is married, and lives quite near us with her husband, my uncle Stephen, and their son Martin, who is ten. She works as a teacher at the local comprehensive school. She is very energetic and never stops moving. At the weekend she plays tennis with my uncle, but she also goes to keep-fit classes three times a week and is very fond of dancing. She sometimes sits down quietly to read a book. but she can't stand watching television. She prefers to go out for a long walk if the weather is fine.

I think of her as warm and friendly, with a lively personality, because she has always been kind to me. But some of her students say she is strict and can be quick-tempered if they don't pay attention. I think that she gets impatient with people who are bored or inattentive, because she is so active herself. I never feel bored in her company, and so I have always got on very well with her.

Name	
Age	
Physical appearance	
Dress	
Family	
Work	
Interests	
Opinion	
Defects	

B. Physical appearance — Useful vocabulary

	Men	Women
Age	old / elderly / middle-aged / young / is (looks) about 30	
Appearance	good-looking / handsome / ugly	beautiful / pretty / gorgeous / plain
Height	tall / of average (medium) height / short	
Figure	well-built / broad-shouldered	has a good figure
Shape	plump / slim (favourable) — fat / thin / skinny (unfavourable)	
Face	round / long / square / oval / wrinkled / freckled	
Features	beard / moustache / goatee / soul patch / bald	ponytail / bun / plait
Hair	black / dark / fair (blonde) / red / long / short / straight / curly / wavy / spiky / fringe	
Eyes	blue / brown / green / grey / hazel / wears glasses / contact lenses	

C. Personality — Useful vocabulary

Match the favourable adjectives with the suitable unfavourable adjectives.

Favourable	Unfavourable
1. amusing, entertaining	a. stupid
2. intelligent, clever	b. disagreeable
3. calm	c. dull, boring
4. cheerful	d. hypocritical
5. generous	e. lazy
6. hard-working	f. mean
7. pleasant, charming	g. miserable, depressing
8. polite	h. narrow-minded
9. sincere	i. rude
10. smart	j. quick-tempered, irritable
11. tolerant	k. untidy, scruffy

D. Adjective order > 2 basic rules:

- * general before specific
- * opinion before description

You can also use the following list as a guide for reference on adjective order.

- 1 both, all, half
- 2 the
- 3 Ordinal number: first, last
- 4 Cardinal number: one, three
- 5 Opinion / Value: good, bad, nice
- 6 Size: big, tall
- 7 Physical characteristics: beautiful, slim
- 8 Mental characteristics: intelligent, stupid
- 9 Age or temperature: old, young, hot
- 10 Shape: round, square
- 11 Colour: red, green
- 12 Material: wooden
- 13 Origin, nationality: French, Japanese
- 14 Noun used as an adjective: steel, tennis

E. Write a description following the model in A based on the picture of your choice.

Paragraph I > Name, age, physical appearance, dress, etc.

Paragraph II > Family, work, interests, etc.

Paragraph III > Opinion, defects, etc.

150-180 words; on a blank sheet of paper; double space; indented paragraphs; etc.

Deadline: 10th October

