

How to describe a person you know in English

It could be someone in your family, a close friend, someone you work with or someone else.

- *How would you describe that person?*
- *What does that person look like?*
- *What kind of personality does this person have?*

DESCRIBING APPEARANCE

What does he/she look like? Think about ...	
HEIGHT	BUILD
TALL	WELL-BUILT**
MEDIUM-HEIGHT	HEAVY
SHORT	OVERWEIGHT
	SLIGHT OF BUILD
	SLIM

** BROAD AND STRONG, WITH BIG MUSCLES

Add adverbs	
INTENSIFIERS	MITIGATORS
Very	Quite
really	rather
extremely	pretty
quite(with strong adjectives)	<i>a bit - just a bit - a little - a little bit - just a little bit - slightly</i>

HAIR		
LENGTH	TYPE	COLOUR
SHORT	STRAIGHT	DARK
MEDIUM-LENGTH	WAVY	BROWN
SHOULDER-LENGTH	CURLY	BLOND
LONG		FAIR***
GOING BALD		RED
		GOING GREY

*** OPPOSITE OF DARK. IT CAN BE USED TO DESCRIBE SO'S HAIR OR SKIN

AGE
in his/her teens, twenties, thirties, early/late middle-age (n)
YOUNG
MIDDLE-AGED
OLD

GENERAL APPEARANCE		
<i>WOMEN</i>	<i>MEN</i>	<i>BOTH</i>
PRETTY	HANDSOME	UGLY
BEAUTIFUL		... STRIKING*** FEATURES
LOVELY		

**** VERY UNUSUAL AND ATTRACTING FACE. A FACE YOU CAN'T HELP NOTICING.

PUTTING SENTENCES TOGETHER

3:59

My brother is quite tall and well-built. He has short brown hair, but he's going bald fast. He looks a bit like a younger version of Vin Diesel.

PART TWO – DESCRIBING POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS

WHAT'S ... LIKE? (TELL ME ABOUT ... PERSONALITY OR CHARACTER)

5:00

Qualities- good sides	Faults or weaknesses
KIND	UNKIND
CONSIDERATE / THOUGHTFUL	INCONSIDERATE SELF-CENTERED /SELFISH
WARM	UNFRIENDLY

FUNNY / FUN / ENTERTAINING	DULL / BORING
WITH A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR	HUMOURLESS / TOO SERIOUS
RELIABLE / DEPENDABLE	UNRELIABLE UNDEPENDABLE
HONEST	DISHONEST
STRAIGHTFORWARD °	INSINCERE / DEVIOUS <i>a person who says things without meaning them</i>
CHEERFUL	GLOOMY
POSITIVE	UNCERTAIN / INDECISIVE
OPTIMISTIC	PESSIMISTIC

° **STRAIGHTFORWARD** - honest and open, easy to understand. Straightforward people say what they think, but not in a rude way. They don't keep secrets or gossip about other people.

°° **WEIRD** - very strange or unusual and difficult to explain

°°° **MOOD** - the way you are feeling at a particular time

(7:48)

My brother's really _____. He likes making weird _____, generally at the most inappropriate moment.

My friend Lia is a very _____ person. Even early in the morning, she's always smiling and in a _____. I don't know how she does it!

(8:42)

Craig, who I work with, is such an _____ guy: I remember one time he found a wallet with £_____ in a pub. It would have been _____ to keep the money – there was nothing in the _____ to say whose it was, but he said it wouldn't be right to keep it, and he insisted on taking it right to the _____ right that minute

PART THREE - DESCRIBING THE BAD SIDE OF SOMEONE'S PERSONALITY

No one's perfect. We all have our flaws and weaknesses

10:00

<i>Match each definition to the appropriate word</i>	
	Someone who changes their mood very easily, often in a bad mood, always unhappy and negative
	They have no sense of humour, they're too serious
	People who think about themselves too much and don't think about the needs of others
	Someone who doesn't do what they say or doesn't keep their promises
	They say things without meaning them: friendly on the surface but do not really feel anything inside
	Someone who only thinks about themselves and doesn't seem to realize that other people exist

12:36

My brother can be a little _____ sometimes. He often 'forgets' to do things he promised he would.

Lisa's _____, but sometimes I feel she's a bit _____. She says all these nice things, but I'm not sure she _____ means them.

My colleague Craig is so _____. He'll² be fine one minute, then suddenly he starts acting like¹ he hates everyone. It makes him quite _____ to be around.

1. AS if (like) :

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/as-and-as-expressions/as-if-and-as-though>

2. will

One of the main uses of *will* is to refer to things in the future that we think are certain

Or to facts in the present the speaker is certain about: they make a deduction because of what they know about the situation.