

How to Describe a Person

Face Shape

- *Square*
- *Oval*
- *Round*
- *Triangular*
- *Heart-shaped*
- *Thin*
- *Wide*
- *Chiseled*

Skin and Complexion

Complexion is the natural appearance and color of the skin, especially of the face. For example, “Mary has a soft, creamy complexion.”

- ***Wrinkled:*** covered with lines or loose folds of skin; often associated with age
- ***Freckled:*** sprinkled or covered with light brown spots
- ***Ruddy:*** skin that has a reddish tint; may have the appearance of sunburn
- ***Sallow:*** skin that has a yellowish tint; may be associated with illness
- ***Tanned:*** skin with a warm, golden-brown tint
- ***Rosy or fresh-faced:*** pink-cheeked, fair complexion that glows with a hint of pink
- ***Other skin-related adjectives:*** pale, fair, spotless, silky, smooth, creamy, dewy, baby-soft, peaches-and-cream, glowing, paper-thin or translucent (as with a very old person), sunburned, peeling, rough, callused, weathered, weatherbeaten, craggy, leathery, mottled, dry, brown, dark

Eyes

TIP: Pay attention to the eyes, as they often reveal much about a person.

- ***Shape, size, and appearance:*** large, small, almond-shaped, round, squinty, crinkly, bulging, heavy-lidded, hooded, deep-set, close-set, hollow, tear-filled
- ***Eye color:*** black, brown, hazel, green, blue, violet, gray, amber
- ***Eye expressions:*** piercing, mesmerizing, sad, sorrowful, haunted, gentle, sympathetic, warm, compassionate, expressive, bright, twinkling, lively, dancing, laughing, shifty, sly, distrusting, sleepy
- ***Other:*** brown-eyed boy, bright-eyed sister, wide-eyed child, gold-flecked eyes

Mouth and Lips

- ***Lip shape and size:*** thin, full, pouting, rosebud (baby’s lips, often), pursed (puckered up, as when concentrating)

- **Mouth expressions:** *laugh, smile, beam, grin, frown, grimace, scowl, sneer, curl, pout*
- **Adjectives describing the mouth or mouth expressions:** *toothy, toothless, gap-toothed, kind, sweet, dimpled, relaxed, firm, serious, cruel, snarling*

Hair

- **Hair color:** *black, brunette, brown, chestnut-brown, blond, honey-blond, golden-blond, ash-blond, fair, cornsilk, auburn, red, strawberry-blond, gray, silver, white, salt-and-pepper*
- **Texture or appearance:** *wispy, fuzzy, wavy, curly, kinky, frizzy, wild, untamed, unmanageable, straight, spiky, stiff, buzzed, shaved, trimmed, parted, neatly-combed, tamed, cascading, long, short, cropped, dull, shiny*
- **Hair styles:** *braids, ponytail, pigtails, bun, messy bun, twist, bob, ringlets, flip, cornrows, extensions, bangs, buzz, layered, feathered, chopped, gelled, spiked, slicked down*
- **Lots of hair:** *thick, full, lustrous, bushy, coarse, wiry, stiff*
- **Little hair:** *thin, scraggly, fine, baby-fine, downy, wispy, limp, flat, balding, bald, bald spot, receding (gradual loss of hair at the front of the head)*
- **Treated hair:** *permed, dyed, bleached, highlighted, weaved, streaked, colored*

Facial Hair

- **Hair:** *beard, goatee, mustache, soul patch, sideburns*
- **Beard growth:** *stubble, fuzz, peach fuzz, bristles, five o'clock shadow (describes new beard growth that's shadowy in appearance. It's usually more noticeable late in the day on the jaw, chin, or cheek area, but some men purposely grow five o'clock shadows.)*
- **Adjectives:** *bearded, bushy, stubbly, bristly, scratchy, unshaven, shaggy, whiskered, beardless, clean-shaven, smooth, trimmed, neatly-trimmed, pencil-thin*

Body

TIP: Choose strong verbs and adjectives.

- **Build:** *small, slim, slight, thin, lean, willowy, skinny, angular, bony, fine-boned, chunky, chubby, large, portly, plump, round, stout, pudgy, full-figured, ample, broad-shouldered, burly, solid, muscular*
- **Posture:** *stand, sit, slouch, flop, lean, recline, rest, stretch, sprawl, curl up, roost, squirm, arch, slump, stoop, bend, hunch, scoot, walk, run, race, jog*

Clothing

- **Fabric:** *denim, twill, wool, cashmere, cotton, linen, seersucker, gingham, lace, chiffon, tulle, velvet, velveteen, fleece, flannel, tweed, polyester, jersey, corduroy, spandex, leather*
- **Bottoms:** *jeans, skinny jeans, cargo pants, yoga pants, pleated pants, slacks, trousers, overalls, sweatpants, crop pants, capris, skirt, shorts, board shorts, bermuda shorts*
- **Tops:** *sport shirt, dress shirt, polo shirt, button-down shirt, chambray shirt, tank top, blouse, tunic, long-sleeve, short-sleeve, sleeveless, collared, T-shirt, V-neck, scoop-neck, boat-neck, turtleneck, sweatshirt, hoodie, pullover, sweater, cardigan, sweater set*
- **Other clothing:** *dress, gown, frock, pinafore, uniform, coveralls, costume, pajamas, bathrobe, robe, vest, jacket, blazer, coat, apron*
- **Footwear:** *socks, stockings, shoes, slippers, sandals, flip-flops, mules, loafers, heels, pumps, boots, ankle boots, riding boots, slouch boots, athletic shoes, sneakers, tennis shoes, gym shoes, runners, trainers, Chucks*
- **Accessories:** *mittens, gloves, hat, cap, head wrap, bandana, scarf, muffler, necklace, choker, bracelet, ring, earrings, cuffs, cufflinks, purse, clutch, bag, tote, sunglasses, eyeglasses, glasses*
- **Adjectives (appearance):** *stylish, smart, chic, classy, elegant, polished, draped, flowing, sheer, casual, relaxed, carefree, starched, crisp, sharp, dressy, lacy, shiny, shimmering, sparkling, glittery, sloppy, torn, ripped, tattered, disheveled, slovenly, tacky, unkempt, faded, scratchy, worn, frayed, nubby, rough, smooth, pliable, warm, soft, quilted, knit*

There are so many ways to describe people! What other words would you include?