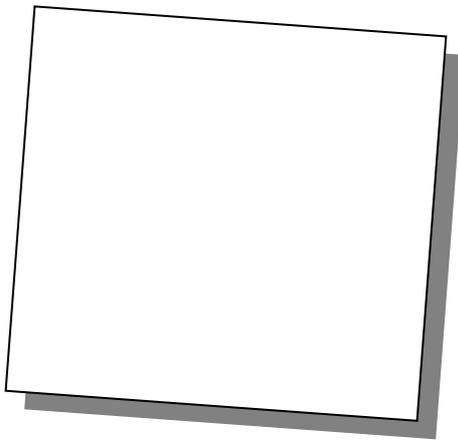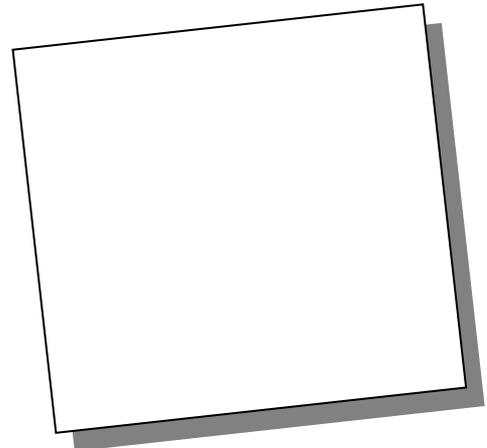# Describing People (A)

**❶ General vocabulary.** **Which of the following words describe appearance or personality? Write 'A 'or 'P' next to the words. Check any words you don't understand**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| tall | shy | overweight | balding | slim |
| pretty | kind | average height | old | moody |
| crazy | lazy | handsome | smart | intelligent |

## APPEARANCE                    PERSONALITY

**❷ Grammar.** **Which verb should we use with the following adjective combinations or nouns?**

1. My dad _____ long hair.

2. My grandma _____ 97 years old.

3. My friend Bob _____ crazy!

4. I _____ glasses.

**❸ Your turn.** **Practice describing yourself to your partner! Make notes in the box below.**

**❹ Extension.** **Describe your favorite movie star to the class, without mentioning their name. Students must guess who it is!**

# Describing People (A): Teacher's Notes

| | |
|---|---|
| **Target Structure:** | Adjectives to describe people |
| **Vocabulary:** | For appearance and personality. |
| **Level:** | Pre-intermediate |
| **Time:** | 30 minutes + |
| **Preparation:** | None for basic activity. Some photocopying half-way through the class if required. |

## Suggested teaching method

❶ This worksheet helps students to describe people and is best suited as review material – once your students have studied the relevant grammar and vocabulary.

We use adjectives to describe someone's general appearance or personality like this. For more detailed information we need to use 'have' + adjective + noun combinations or 'is' + noun combinations.

Ensure students realize that some adjectives may describe both personality and appearance.

❷ This is a very quick review of important verb collocations.

Number 4 should be especially reviewed. For clothes we tend to use present continuous of the verb 'to wear', or 'have' for general possession.

Glasses are not usually accessories so we use 'wear', 'use' or 'have'.

❸ Set a time limit for students to make notes about themselves. After writing, students should make sentences to a partner.

Elicit a few sentences to check. If possible, then photocopy the notes sections and give them to different students in the group, to identify the writer. Alternatively, you may want to discuss some people's assessment of themselves, if your group is good-natured!

❹ You may want to model an example here (obviously clues about appearance and personality may not be enough!)

e.g.    *He's British, and average height. He wears black glasses and groovy '60s clothes – usually smart, velvet suits. He has medium-length brown hair and bad teeth in early films*
(Answer: Austin Powers)

## Suggested answers (alternatives may be possible)

❶ Appearance adjectives: tall, overweight, balding, slim, pretty, average height, old, handsome, smart
Personality adjectives: shy, kind, moody, crazy, lazy, smart, intelligent

❷ 1. has   2. is   3. is   4. wear / use / have

## Additional Ideas

Check out www.handoutsonline.com for more participle lesson ideas, including a higher level version of this activity.

Updated 12/15/03