Describing people: appearance

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Tick the correct category for each appearance word.

Word	Hair	Face / skin	Build	General
1 receding	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
2 freckles	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
3 stocky	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
4 elegant	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
5 complexion	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
6 muscular	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
7 auburn	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
8 scruffy	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each description.

1 She has **a long curly hair**. _____

2 He is **medium height man**. _____

3 My aunt has **gone grey hairs**. _____

4 Leo **has a well-built**. _____

5 The child has **a lot of freckle**. _____

6 Nina was wearing **a smartly black coat**. _____

7 He has **a beard and a moustaches**. _____

8 Her **best characteristic** is her bright smile. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For a positive description of a thin person: *slim / skinny*.

2 For a polite description of someone above a healthy weight: *overweight / fat*.

3 For a broad, solid person: *stocky / round-faced*.

4 For someone whose clothes are untidy: *scruffy / stunning*.

5 For someone attractively dressed: *elegant / messy-looking*.

6 For a man with no hair: *bald / receding*.

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4 Complete the witness descriptions with words from the box.

bald | beard | complexion | crew-cut | distinctive | medium | round | well-built | well-dressed | wrinkles

Witness A: The first person was of **1** _____ height and quite **2** _____. He had a dark **3** _____ and a very short **4** _____. His most **5** _____ feature was a star-shaped tattoo.
Witness B: The second person was **6** _____ and **7** _____. She had a pale **8** _____, a few **9** _____ around her eyes and a **10** _____ face.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

First impressions
We form an initial impression of a stranger very quickly, often before the person speaks. Clothes, posture, facial expression and grooming all contribute, but our interpretation is not always accurate. Someone in formal clothes may seem confident and organised, while casual clothing may be read as relaxed. These judgements depend on context: the same outfit can appear suitable at a concert but careless at an interview. Cultural expectations also differ. A useful habit is therefore to notice appearance without assuming that it reveals personality, ability or intentions. A first impression may guide attention, but it should remain open to revision.

1 When do we often form an initial impression? _____

2 Which four aspects of appearance are mentioned? _____

3 How may formal clothes be interpreted? _____

4 Why can the same outfit create different impressions? _____

5 What should we avoid inferring from appearance? _____

6 What should happen to a first impression over time? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 Her hair is beginning to disappear at the front. **RECEDING** _____

2 He wore very smart, attractive clothes. **WELL-DRESSED** _____

3 Her eyes are the most attractive part of her face. **FEATURE** _____

4 He looked extremely attractive in the suit. **STUNNING** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** description of two contrasting people. Cover hair, face, build, clothing and general appearance without making assumptions about personality.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the contrast clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 **hair** 2 **face / skin** 3 **build** 4 **general** 5 **face / skin** 6 **build** 7 **hair** 8 **general**

2 Corrections

1 long curly hair 2 a man of medium height / a medium-height man 3 her hair has gone grey 4 Leo is well-built 5 a lot of freckles 6 a smart black coat 7 a beard and a moustache 8 best feature

3 Suitable descriptions

1 **slim** 2 **overweight** 3 **stocky** 4 **scruffy** 5 **elegant** 6 **bald**

4 Witness descriptions

1 **medium** 2 **well-built** 3 **beard** 4 **crew-cut** 5 **distinctive** 6 **bald** 7 **well-dressed** 8 **complexion** 9 **wrinkles** 10 **round**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Very quickly, often before a stranger speaks.
2 Clothes, posture, facial expression and grooming.
3 As confident and organised.
4 Suitability and interpretation depend on context.
5 Personality, ability or intentions.
6 It should remain open to revision.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 She has **receding hair**. 2 He was **well-dressed**. 3 Her eyes are her **best feature**. 4 He looked **stunning** in the suit.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear comparison.