

COLLOCATIONS FOR DESCRIBING PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Practice Worksheet • B2 English • British English

Name: _____

Date: _____

Learning goals: recognise natural collocations, correct common errors, and describe people accurately and respectfully.

Age & height	Build	Hair & face	General appearance
in her early thirties	a slim build	shoulder-length hair	smartly dressed
of medium height	broad shoulders	high cheekbones	a good dress sense
looks younger than she is	tall and well-built	a warm smile	well-presented

1. Match the collocations

Write the correct letter in each blank. Each ending is used once.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. shoulder-length _____ | 7. a fair _____ |
| 2. a slim _____ | 8. a neatly trimmed _____ |
| 3. broad _____ | 9. fashionably _____ |
| 4. high _____ | 10. of medium _____ |
| 5. a warm _____ | 11. in her late _____ |
| 6. deep-set _____ | 12. take pride in _____ |

Endings:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| a. complexion | b. dressed | c. build |
| d. eyes | e. height | f. hair |
| g. beard | h. twenties | i. cheekbones |
| j. smile | k. shoulders | l. your appearance |

2. Choose the natural collocation

Circle the correct option.

- Mia is in / has her early thirties.
- The witness described a man of medium tall / of medium height.
- She has an athletic build / athletic body construction.
- He has short, closely cropped / closely cutted hair.
- The actress is known for her high / tall cheekbones.
- My grandfather has a thick grey / strongly grey moustache.
- This colour fits / suits you very well.
- These trousers do not suit / fit me; they are too tight.
- She rarely puts / wears much makeup during the week.
- He is always fashionably dressed / dressed in fashion.

3. Complete the descriptions

Use each item in the box once. Change the form if necessary.

arched eyebrows	broad shoulders	clear skin	go grey	look her age	oval face
receding hairline	rosy cheeks	slender figure	sparkling eyes	wear her hair	well-presented

1. Although Julia is nearly fifty, she does not _____.
2. The little boy had _____ after playing outside in the cold.
3. The model had a tall, _____ and long legs.
4. He has begun to _____, especially at the temples.
5. My uncle has a _____, so his forehead looks larger than before.
6. Her most noticeable features are her green, _____.
7. The candidate was smartly dressed and looked extremely _____.
8. She has an _____ with high cheekbones.
9. He has a powerful build and very _____.
10. The beautician gave advice on how to maintain _____.
11. She has beautifully _____ and long eyelashes.
12. For formal occasions, she usually _____ in a neat bun.

4. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. My neighbour has about forty years.

2. The man was medium tall and rather stocky.

3. Leah has a squared face and a pointed chin.

4. I do not put makeup when I work from home.

5. His hair is starting to become bald.

6. Nina always dresses in fashion.

7. These glasses fit you; they make your face look brighter.

8. This jacket does not suit me because it is too small.

9. She has white beautiful even teeth.

10. These expressions will come handy when you describe people.

5. Build complete sentences

Put the words in the correct order. Add punctuation and capital letters.

1. woman / a / is / she / forties / in / late / her

2. has / he / short / hair / wavy / dark

3. with / man / tall / a / build / athletic / an

4. eyes / her / most / feature / striking / are / blue

5. usually / hair / wears / she / tied / back / her

6. suits / that / really / hairstyle / you

7. takes / father / after / he / his / appearance / in

8. pride / appearance / always / takes / in / she / her

6. Wear, suit, fit or match?

Complete each sentence with the correct form of wear, suit, fit or match.

1. That shade of green really _____ your complexion.

2. These shoes do not _____ me any more; my feet have grown.

3. Your scarf _____ your coat perfectly.

4. She usually _____ her hair loose at weekends.

5. He _____ glasses for reading.

6. The dress _____ beautifully, but the colour does not _____ her.

7. His tie did not _____ his shirt.

8. Short hair _____ people with delicate features.

7. Complete a police-style description

Complete the paragraph using the prompts. Use full sentences and neutral language.

Feature	Notes
Age	approximately 35 / mid-thirties
Height	average height
Build	stocky / broad shoulders
Hair	short / dark / closely cropped
Face	square face / strong jaw
Eyes	deep-set / brown
Clothes	dark jacket / grey trousers
General impression	neatly dressed

Your description:

8. Describe and compare

Choose two people you know, two fictional characters or two people in a photograph. Write six sentences comparing their appearance. Use at least eight collocations from the lesson.

9. Speaking practice

Discuss the questions with a partner. Give reasons and examples.

1. Which features do people usually notice first when they meet someone?
2. Can clothes and hairstyle change the impression a person makes?
3. What does it mean to be well-presented?
4. Why can comments about age, weight and skin be sensitive?
5. Do people worry too much about physical appearance?
6. Which collocations from this worksheet would be useful in a story or B2 First speaking task?

10. Short writing task

Write 100–140 words describing a memorable fictional character or a person in a photograph. Include age, height, build, hair, face, eyes, clothing and overall impression. Use respectful language and at least ten collocations.

SELF-CHECK ☐ I used natural collocations. ☐ My adjectives are in a natural order. ☐ I used wear/suit/fit/match correctly. ☐ My description is respectful and clear.

ANSWER KEY

More than one answer may be possible in the open-ended tasks.

1. Match the collocations

1-f • 2-c • 3-k • 4-i • 5-j • 6-d • 7-a • 8-g • 9-b • 10-e • 11-h • 12-l

2. Choose the natural collocation

1. in her early thirties
2. of medium height
3. an athletic build
4. closely cropped hair
5. high cheekbones
6. a thick grey moustache
7. suits
8. fit
9. wears
10. fashionably dressed

3. Complete the descriptions

1. look her age
2. rosy cheeks
3. slender figure
4. go grey
5. receding hairline
6. sparkling eyes
7. well-presented
8. oval face
9. broad shoulders
10. clear skin
11. arched eyebrows
12. wears her hair

4. Correct the mistakes

1. My neighbour is about forty years old. / My neighbour is about forty.
2. The man was of medium height and rather stocky.
3. Leah has a square face and a pointed chin.
4. I do not wear makeup when I work from home. / I do not put on makeup when I work from home.
5. His hair is starting to thin. / He is starting to go bald.
6. Nina is always fashionably dressed. / Nina always wears fashionable clothes.
7. These glasses suit you; they make your face look brighter.
8. This jacket does not fit me because it is too small.
9. She has beautiful, even white teeth.
10. These expressions will come in handy when you describe people.

5. Build complete sentences

1. She is a woman in her late forties.
2. He has short, wavy, dark hair. (Also possible: short, dark, wavy hair.)
3. He is a tall man with an athletic build.
4. Her blue eyes are her most striking feature.
5. She usually wears her hair tied back.
6. That hairstyle really suits you.
7. He takes after his father in appearance.
8. She always takes pride in her appearance.

6. Wear, suit, fit or match?

1. suits
2. fit
3. matches
4. wears
5. wears
6. fits; suit
7. match
8. suits

7. Sample police-style description

The man is approximately 35 years old, or in his mid-thirties. He is of average height and has a stocky build with broad shoulders. He has short, dark, closely cropped hair, a square face and a strong jaw. His eyes are brown and deep-set. He was wearing a dark jacket and grey trousers, and he appeared neatly dressed.

8–10. Open-ended tasks

Answers will vary. Check that learners use natural collocations, accurate grammar, clear organisation and respectful language. Encourage complete descriptions rather than lists of disconnected adjectives.

Simple marking guide

Section	Marks	Suggested scoring
Exercises 1–6	60	1 mark per correct answer
Exercise 7	10	Content 4, collocations 4, accuracy 2
Exercise 8	10	Comparisons 4, collocations 4, accuracy 2
Exercise 9	Speaking	Use for fluency practice; no fixed score
Exercise 10	20	Content 5, vocabulary 5, grammar 5, organisation 5

Suggested total: 100 marks