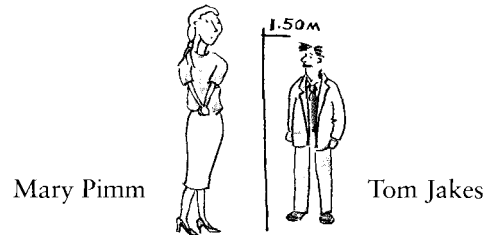


32 Describing people

A Height (= how many metres?)

Mary Pimm is a very **tall** woman.
[NOT Mary Pimm is a very **high** woman.]

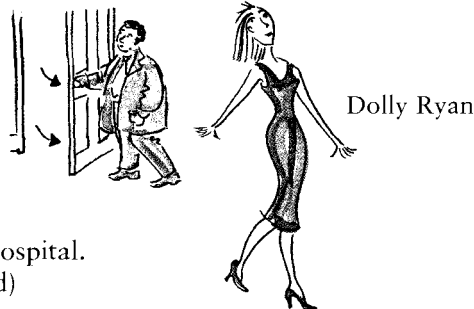
Tom Jakes is quite **short**.
[NOT Tom Jakes is quite **low**.]



If you aren't tall or short, you are **medium height**.
To ask if someone is tall or short, we say:
How tall is Mary/Tom? She's 1.60 metres tall. / He's 1.48 metres tall.

B Weight (= how many kilos?)

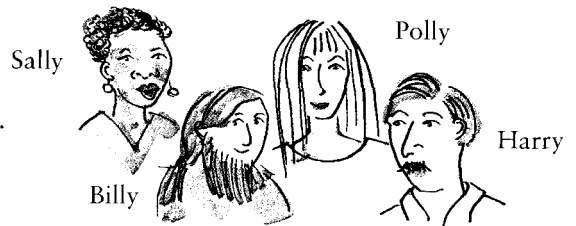
Dolly Ryan is really **slim**.
I was very **thin** when I was in hospital.
(**thin** is a more negative word)



A rather **fat** man opened the door. (**fat** is quite negative)
The doctor said I am **overweight**. (= more kilos than is good for me)
How much do you weigh? I weigh 62 kilos / 74 kilos, etc.

C Face and head

Sally has **dark** hair and **dark** skin.
She has **brown** eyes.
Polly has **blonde** (or **fair**) hair and **fair** skin.
She has **blue** eyes.
Billy has a **beard** and **long** hair.
He has **green** eyes.
Harry has a **moustache** and **short** hair.



You can also use **has got**, for example, Sally **has got** dark hair and dark skin.

D Age

My grandmother is 97. She's very **old**. My sister is 14. She's **young**, but would like to be **older**. My father is 56. He's **middle-aged**, but would like to be **younger**!

This hospital is for **elderly** people. (more polite than **old**)

E Looks: positive (+) and negative (-)

My sister is quite **pretty**. (+++) (usually girls/women only). She's a very **beautiful** girl.
(++++) Jim's a very **handsome** man. (++++) (usually for men only) Bob's a rather **ugly** man. (---)
I'm not ugly or beautiful, I'm just **ordinary-looking**! (+/-)

Exercises

32.1 Fill the gaps in the sentences.

- 1 He's only one metre 52. He's quite ...*short*....
- 2 Very people are often good at basketball.
- 3 Models are usually
- 4 Is her skin dark? No it's
- 5 She's only 12. She's very
- 6 If I eat too much I'll be
- 7 My grandmother is in this hospital. It's a hospital for people. (don't use 'old')

32.2 Ask questions for these answers. Use the words in brackets.

- 1 ...*How tall is your brother?*..... (your brother)
He's about one metre 75.
- 2 Is? (Elena's hair)
No, her hair's dark.
- 3 Is? (Mike's hair)
Yes, it is quite long.
- 4 Are? (your parents)
Not really, they're middle-aged.
- 5 Is? (his sister)
Yes, all the boys want to go out with her.
- 6 Why? (Sara - thin)
She has been very ill.

32.3 Write sentences describing the people in these pictures.



Suzanna



Jeff



Caroline



Dick

- 1 Suzanna's got
- 2 Jeff has
- 3 Caroline's got
- 4 Dick's hair is and he

32.4 Write down the names of three people you know. Then write about:

- their height (tall, short, medium height)
- their hair (colour, long, short, beard)
- their eyes (colour)
- their looks (ordinary, handsome, etc.)