

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity

Language Focus

Describing people

verb 'to be' to describe height, body build and age

'have' and 'has' to describe hair colour, hair length and facial features

'wear' to talk about clothes

Aim

To learn and practice how to describe people's appearance and clothing.

Preparation

Make one copy of the lesson for each student.

Level

Elementary (A1-A2)

Time

60 minutes

Introduction

This describing people lesson helps to teach students how to describe people's appearance and clothing.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the lesson.

Students begin by learning how to use the verb 'to be' to describe height, body build and age.

Go through the examples with the class and brainstorm other possible adjectives for height, body build and age. Then, have the students write short descriptions of the people in the pictures using the verb to be and adjectives, e.g. 'The girl is young and slim'.

After that, students learn how to use 'have' and 'has' to describe hair colour, hair length and facial features. Go through the example with the class. Then, draw some faces on the board and go through more examples, adding extra vocabulary as you go.

In pairs, students then take it in turns to describe the people on the worksheet.

Next, students practice describing what someone is wearing. Go through the various forms of the verb 'wear' and have students brainstorm other items of clothing that aren't on the list. Students then write about what they are wearing now and what they wore yesterday.

In pairs, students then put what they have learnt together by describing pictures of two people. Afterwards, students complete two gap fill exercises to practice the language from the lesson.

Answer key

G. 1. is 2. is 3. has 4. has 5. is

H. 1. first-year 2. China 3. am 4. am 5. have 6. have
7. wearing 8. wear 9. wore 10. is 11. has 12. has

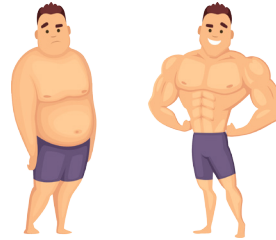
Students then move on to describe themselves and a classmate. When students describe a classmate, have them secretly choose someone to describe. When the students have finished, they take it in turns to read their descriptions to the class. The class then tries to guess who is being described.

Finally, students take part in a drawing activity where they read descriptions and draw pictures of three thieves. When the students have finished, they compare their drawings. Then, have some students draw their pictures on the board and go through the descriptions with the class.

Height, body build and age

When describing people, we use the verb 'to be' to describe height, body build and age.

Examples: I am tall and slim.
He is overweight.
Ann is chubby.
You are old and short.
They are young.



A. Write short descriptions of the people in the pictures below using the verb 'to be' and the adjectives: tall, short, overweight, slim, old, young.





Facial features

We use 'have' and 'has' to describe hair colour, hair length and facial features.

Facial features are eyes, eyebrows, nose, mouth, lips, ears, chin, etc.

Example:



She has long brown hair.
She has big blue eyes.
She has a small nose.
She has a wide mouth and big red lips.

B. In pairs, take it in turns to describe the people below.



Clothes

We use the verb 'wear' to talk about the clothes someone has on.

<p>Present simple form 'wear'</p> <p>Example: She wears a uniform to school.</p>	<p>Past simple form 'wore'</p> <p>Example: I wore a T-shirt and jeans yesterday.</p>	<p>Present continuous form 'wearing'</p> <p>Example: He is wearing a shirt and tie.</p>
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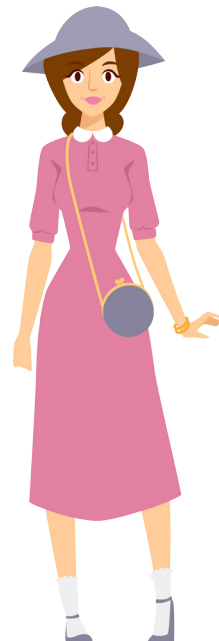
C. What other items of clothing can you add to this list? Write your answers in the spaces below.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| T - shirt | dress | sweater | shirt | _____ | _____ |
| jeans | skirt | suit | boots | _____ | _____ |
| trainers | socks | trousers | shoes | _____ | _____ |

D. What are you wearing now?

E. What did you wear yesterday?

F. In pairs, describe these two people. Talk about what they look like and what they are wearing.



G. Complete the following paragraph with the correct verbs.

My friend John (1) _____ tall. He exercises a lot and (2) _____ very strong. He (3) _____ blue eyes and brown hair. He (4) _____ big ears and a small nose. Today, he (5) _____ wearing a blue shirt and jeans.

H. Use the words in the box to complete the paragraph below.

am x 2 is have x 2 has x 2 wear wore wearing China first-year

My name is Miko. I am a (1) _____ student. I come from (2) _____. I (3) _____ not tall, and I (4) _____ not overweight either. I (5) _____ long hair and a pony tail. Like most Chinese, I (6) _____ brown eyes. Today, I am (7) _____ my student uniform. Yesterday, I didn't have class, so I didn't (8) _____ my uniform. I (9) _____ jeans and a yellow T-shirt. I went to a movie with my friend Noi. She (10) _____ tall and (11) _____ short hair. She (12) _____ a big nose, but I think she is pretty.

I. Now, write a short paragraph describing yourself.

My name is _____

J. Describe someone in the classroom. Don't write their name and don't tell anyone who you are describing.

K. Now, read your description to the class and see if they can guess who it is.

L. Some thieves have been stealing things from your classroom. A student saw them steal some pencils. Here is what the student told the police. Read the descriptions and draw pictures of the thieves.

Thief 1

Thief 2

Thief 3

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1. The first thief is tall and thin. He has a long face.
2. The second thief is short and overweight. He has a round face.
3. The other thief is short and thin. He has an oval face (egg shaped).
4. The thief with a round face has a big nose.
5. The thief with a long face has small eyes and a long nose.
6. The overweight thief has big ears and short hair.
7. The thief with an oval face has big eyes and a small mouth.
8. The thief with a big nose has big eyes and a big mouth.
9. The other thief has a long mouth and a pony tail.
10. The thief with a small mouth has a small nose and small ears
11. One man has ears that look like the number 8.
12. The man with a small nose is bald.
13. All of the thieves wore T-shirts and jeans.



When you have finished, compare your drawings with your classmates. Are they the same?