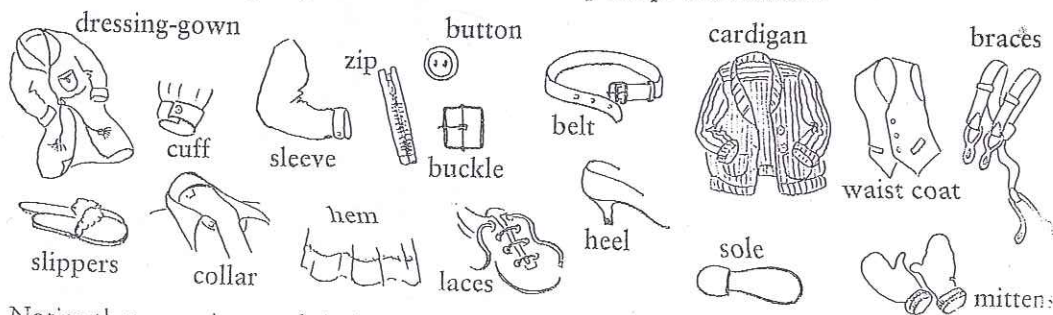


# 47 Clothes

**A** At this level you probably already know *most of the everyday* words for clothes. Here are some items of clothing or parts of them which are perhaps less familiar.

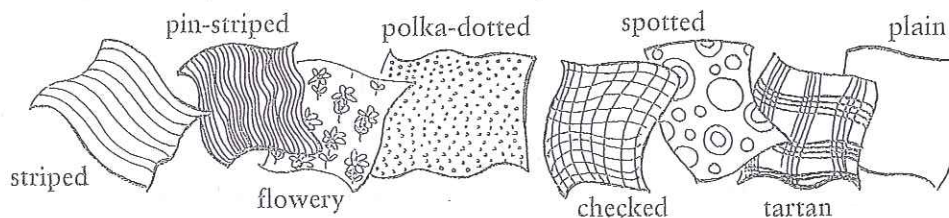


**B** Notice that most items of clothing covering the legs are plural words only and, if you wish, count them, you need to say, e.g. 'Six pairs of trousers'. (See Unit 24.)

**C** Here are some words used to describe materials which clothes are often made of. These words can be either nouns or adjectives.

silk cotton velvet corduroy denim leather wool/woollen suede

**D** Here are some adjectives used to describe the patterns on materials.



**E** Here are some verbs associated with clothing.

He undressed / got undressed, throwing all his clothes on the floor.  
 She quickly dressed the child.  
 I love dressing up for parties as I normally wear jeans.  
 Can I try on those grey shoes in the window?  
 The skirt is too tight and too short – it needs letting out and letting down.  
 The dress is too loose and too long – it needs taking in and taking up.  
 She took off her shoes and put on her slippers.  
 He changed out of his weekend clothes into his uniform.  
 Red usually doesn't suit people with ginger hair.  
 Her black bag matches her shoes.  
 Those shoes don't fit the boy any more. He's grown out of them.

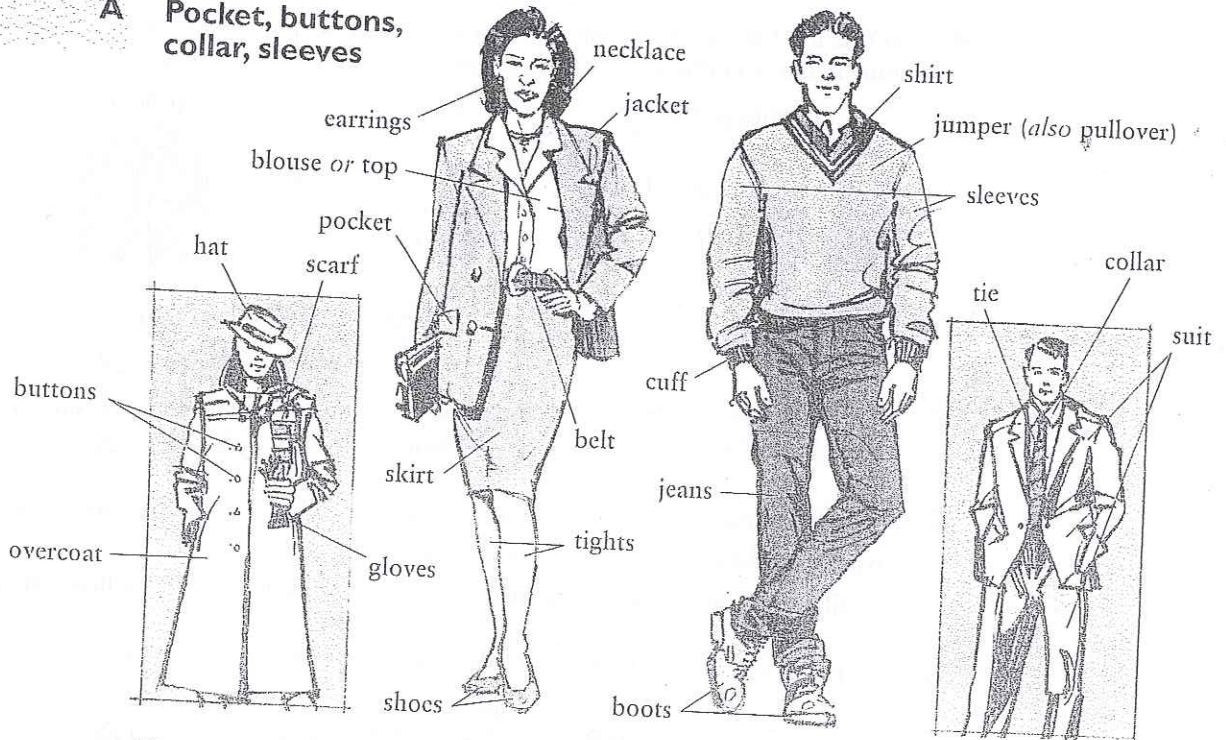
**F** Here are some adjectives for describing people's clothing.

How things fit: baggy loose tight close-fitting  
 Style: long-sleeved V-neck round-neck  
 General: elegant smart scruffy chic trendy with-it  
 Appearance: well-dressed badly-dressed old-fashioned fashionable

See Unit 33 for more useful vocabulary for describing someone's appearance.

# 56 Clothes

## A Pocket, buttons, collar, sleeves



Note: Some of these words are plural nouns, e.g. jeans and trousers. See Unit 27.

## B Important verbs

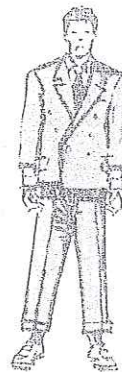
Use this text to guess the meaning of the key words.

I got up at 7.30, had a shower, got dressed, and had breakfast. It was a cold morning so I put on my overcoat and left home about 8.20. When I got to work I took off my coat and hung it up behind the door. It was hot in the office, so I took my jacket off as well. During my lunchbreak I had a look round the shops. I saw a nice jacket in one shop and tried it on, but it didn't fit me – it was too small and they didn't have a bigger size.

Note: Notice the different word order with the verbs put on, take off, hang up, and try on. If you want to know the rule about this, turn to Unit 17 Phrasal verbs: grammar and style.

## C Too small and not long enough

The man is wearing a suit, but it doesn't fit him very well: the jacket is too small (= not big enough); the trousers are too short (= not long enough).



# 43 Describing people's appearance

## A General

*Positive:* beautiful is generally used to describe women; handsome is used to describe men; good-looking is used for both; pretty is another positive word to describe a woman (often a girl) meaning 'attractive and nice to look at'.

*Negative:* ugly is the most negative word to describe someone; plain is more polite.

## B Height and build



tall and slim



medium height and build



short and fat



medium height and very muscular

*Note:* Another word for slim is thin, but slim has a more positive meaning, e.g. John is lovely and slim, but his brother is terribly thin. Skinny also has the same meaning but is very negative. It is not very polite to say someone is fat; overweight is more neutral and polite.

## C Hair



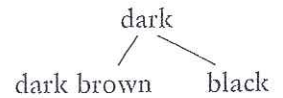
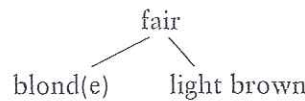
straight



wavy

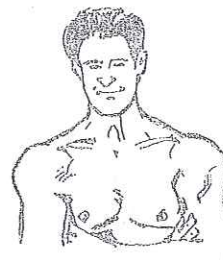


curly



## D Special features

The man on the left has got very pale skin (= white skin). He also has broad shoulders, with a small scar at the top of his left arm. The other man has dark skin. He also has a beard and moustache and quite a hairy chest and a tattoo.



## E Asking questions about a person's appearance

Q: What does she look like?

A: She's quite tall, with short fair hair.

Q: How tall is she?

A: About 1 metre 65.

Q: How much does she weigh?

A: I don't know and it may be rude to ask. Probably about 45 kilos.

## A Opposites

Many positive words describing character have clear opposites with a negative meaning.

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
warm and friendly	cold and unfriendly
kind	unkind
nice, pleasant	horrible, unpleasant
generous (= happy to give/share)	mean (= never gives to others)
optimistic (= thinks positively)	pessimistic (= thinks negatively)
cheerful (= happy and smiling)	miserable (= always seems unhappy)
relaxed and easy-going	tense (= nervous; worries a lot; not calm)
strong	weak
sensitive	insensitive (= does not think about others' feelings)
honest (= always tells the truth)	dishonest

Jane is very tense at the moment because of her exams, but she's usually quite relaxed and easy-going about most things.

I think the weather influences me a lot: when it's sunny I feel more cheerful and optimistic; but when it's cold and raining I get very miserable.

He seemed a bit unfriendly at first, but now I've got to know him I realise he's very warm and kind.

The shop assistant told me that the dress I tried on looked better on people younger than me. I thought that was very insensitive of her, but at least she was being honest, I suppose.

## B Character in action

People often talk about qualities of character that you may need in a work situation. Again, some of these words come in pairs of opposites: one positive and one negative.

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
hard-working	lazy (= never does any work)
punctual (=always on time)	not very punctual; always late
reliable	unreliable (= you cannot trust / depend on someone like this)
clever, bright ( <i>informal</i> )	stupid, thick ( <i>informal</i> )
flexible	inflexible (= a very fixed way of thinking; unable to change)
ambitious	unambitious (= no desire to be successful and get a better job)

Some pairs of opposites do not have a particularly positive or negative meaning:

He is very shy when you first meet him because he finds it difficult to talk to people and make conversation; but when he knows people quite well he's much more self-confident.

People often say the British are very reserved (= do not show their feelings), but when you get to know them they can be very emotional like anyone else.

## C Using nouns

Some important qualities are expressed through nouns.

One of her great qualities is that she uses her initiative. (= she can think for herself and take the necessary action; she does not need to wait for orders all the time)

That boy has got no common sense (= he does stupid things and doesn't think what he is doing). His sister, on the other hand, is very sensible. (= has lots of common sense)