

How to write a description of a person

We tell the reader about a person's appearance and personality.

We can also tell the reader what we and other people think of that person.

We can write about a person we know, or about a famous person.

2 Content

- Use present tenses to write about someone who you know now and past tenses to write about someone from the past.
- Give examples of what this person does that shows his / her personality.
- Use a variety of adjectives, adverbs and modifiers to add interest.
- Use idioms or similes to add interest to your description.

Remember!

1 Structure

- In the first paragraph, introduce the person and describe his or her appearance.
- In the next paragraph, describe the person's personality (positive and negative characteristics).
- In the last paragraph, give your opinion of the person with reasons.

Useful language

Age: 20 years old / about 20 / in his/her twenties / elderly

Appearance: tall / short / slim / dark hair / fair hair / blue eyes / pretty / handsome / good-looking / looks/looked like ...

Clothes: wears/wore colourful clothes / a lot of jewellery / glasses

Personality: quiet / intelligent / kind / shy / funny / outgoing / patient / friendly / honest / chatty

Similes and idioms: as quiet as a mouse / as gentle as a lamb / a heart of gold / is a pain in the neck

Modifiers: a bit / quite / a little / slightly / extremely / very / really

Adverbs of frequency: always / usually / often / sometimes / never / occasionally

Model question

Write a description of someone in your family that you admire.

Model answer

The person I admire most in my family is my grandmother, Granny Em. Granny Em has fine, white hair and bright, blue eyes. She's as strong as an ox and she refuses to slow down! She is eighty now, but she's really fit for her age and she is still extremely active. Every day, she visits a rest home for elderly people to help them and have a chat. Most of them are younger than she is!

Granny Em is a determined old lady, but she is kind, gentle and understanding too. She has had a difficult life and has learned a lot of things. That is why she's the person I go to when I have problems, and she always gives great advice.

Granny Em has a very big family and we all love and respect her. In my opinion, she has a heart of gold and she continues to make a difference to our lives.

introduction
appearance
simile
modifier

evidence

personality

opinions with reasons
idiom